



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION #63

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QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to admit patients to the hospital?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina recognizes that the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse scope of practice includes a collaborative agreement between the APRN and the collaborating physician. According to the Nurse Practice Act Chapter 33: Section 40-33-20 (5) "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" or "APRN" means a registered nurse who is prepared for an advanced practice registered nursing role by virtue of additional knowledge and skills gained through an advanced formal education program of nursing in a specialty area that is approved by the board. The categories of APRN are nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, and certified registered nurse anesthetist. An advanced practice registered nurse shall hold a doctorate, a post-nursing master's certificate, or a minimum of a master's degree that includes advanced education composed of didactic and supervised clinical practice in a specific area of advanced practice registered nursing. APRNs must achieve national certification within two years post-graduation. An APRN may perform those activities considered to be the practice of registered nursing or advanced practice consisting of nonmedical acts, such as population health management; quality improvement or research projects within a health care system; and analysis of data and corresponding system recommendations, revisions, developments, or informatics. An APRN also may perform specified medical acts pursuant to a practice agreement as defined in item (45).

Per SECTION 40-33-34. Performance of medical acts; qualifications; practice agreements; prescriptive authorization; anesthesia care; definitions. "An APRN is subject, at all times, to the scope and standards of practice established by the board-approved credentialing organization representing the specialty area of practice... A licensed NP, CNM, or CNS performing medical acts must do so pursuant to a practice agreement with a physician who must be readily available for consultation... Medical acts performed by a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist must be performed pursuant to a practice agreement between the nurse and the physician or medical staff."

As part of the APRN's practice agreement and scope of practice, the APRN is recognized as working with a collaborative physician who approves and supports the practice agreement developed collaboratively between the APRN and the physician. If the collaborating physician has hospital admitting privileges, then the APRN that he/she has a written practice agreement with may admit patients to the hospital as well if this is included in the practice agreement. However, it is recognized that it is the decision of the hospital and according to its bylaws as to whether the APRN is granted admitting privileges. Therefore, the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, recognizes that it is within the scope of practice for the APRN to admit patients to the hospital if the hospital bylaws/policy grant this privilege.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina as to what constitutes competent and safe Advanced Practice Registered Nurse practice.