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South Carolina Board of Nursing
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ADVISORY OPINION # 68

FORMULATED: May 2016

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of practice for the Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) who is out of the acute care setting to assist in the performance of a vaginal birth after Cesarean (VBAC) delivery?

The South Carolina Board of Nursing recognizes that it is within the scope of practice for CNMs with competency based education and preparation to perform in VBAC deliveries.

CNMs are expected to have demonstrated skill competency and to have applicable written guidelines in accordance with, Section 40-33-34 Performance of delegated medical acts; qualifications; protocols; and prescriptive authorization of the Laws Governing Nursing in South Carolina, Chapter 33, Section 40-33-34.

In accordance with such legislation, because VBAC deliveries require continuous electronic fetal monitoring and attendance by licensed health care personnel familiar with potential complications, the South Carolina Board of Nursing does not endorse CNMs to perform VBAC deliveries out of the acute care setting and acknowledges that VBAC deliveries only be performed within facilities capable of implementing emergency and surgical interventions.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe legal nursing practice.