



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 28

FORMULATED: April 21, 1995

REVISED: May 2014, July 2007, February 2001

REVIEWED: March 2011, May 2006, July 2005, April 2003, May 1998, May 1997

QUESTION: Is it within the scope and practice of a registered nurse (RN) to administer first dose antibiotics in the home setting?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina (Board) acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of practice of a the RN to administer first dose antibiotics in the home setting providing there is written patient specific medical orders which include steps to take in the event of anaphylaxis, the environment is supportive to emergency medical care and there is a responsible caregiver available who can assist the nurse in the event of an adverse reaction.

The Board recommends that the home health agency develop written policies and procedures which specify:

- patient situations whereby the RN is authorized to administer first dose antibiotics in the home
- how it will assure that the RN is knowledgeable of safety parameters to be monitored and reported.

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