



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 49

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QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope for a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) to supervise emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics in the emergency department (ED) of an agency functioning as EMTs and paramedics?

The Board of Nursing for South Carolina recognizes that it is **NOT** within the role and scope of the registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) to supervise emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics in the emergency department (ED) while functioning as an EMT or paramedic. In the state of South Carolina, the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), authorizes EMTs and paramedics to perform certain described procedures and acts. They perform these procedures and acts while employed by a licensed Emergency Medical Services provider and under the guidance of an approved Medical Control physician. The EMT or paramedic certification does not apply within a medical facility or agency. EMTs and paramedics are not allowed to wear any designation of such certification while working as an employee within a healthcare facility or hospital. When employed by the hospital or healthcare facility, they should follow the guidelines for unlicensed assistive personnel related to nursing supervision and oversight.

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