



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 32

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Question: Is it within the role and scope of the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to function in an expanded role to perform additional acts as (1) Charge Nurse or (2) in an Intensive Care Unit?

The South Carolina State Board of Nursing acknowledges that the LPN is functioning in an expanded role when assigned as a Charge Nurse and when working in the Intensive Care Unit. Listed below are additional acts that may be performed by the selected LPN as designated by the APRN, registered nurse (RN) licensed physician or licensed dentist.

1. Charge Duty: The selected LPN may function as a Charge Nurse in a skilled care facility or intermediate care facility under the supervision of a RN who is available on call.
2. Intensive Care Units The selected LPN performing additional acts in an intensive care unit shall be under the direct supervision of a RN who is present and in charge of the unit.

If the nursing department determines that implementation is in order, the appropriate policies, procedures and protocols should be developed. Protocols must specify qualifications, special education, and training regarding the role of the selected LPN to include didactic and clinical competencies.

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