

**South Carolina Board of Nursing  
April 2013 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter**

**MISSION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING**

*The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.*

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

**REVISED ADVISORY OPINION**

*At its January 2013 meeting, the Board approved revision of Advisory Opinion #5 as follows:*

**Advisory Opinion # 5**

**Formulated:** July 31, 1987

**Revised:** January 2013, September 2012, July 2007, November 2003, October 2002, January 1998, December 1997, May 1997, May 1993, November 1991, November 1990, November 1989. January 1989

**Reviewed:** March 2011, May 2006, July 2005, December 2000, July 1998, March 1993

**Question:** What is within the role and scope of responsibility of the registered nurse (RN) in the administration of epidural, intrathecal and peripheral nerve therapies?

The Board of Nursing of South Carolina acknowledges that it is within the role and scope of responsibility of the RN to perform the following epidural, intrathecal or peripheral nerve therapies:

**ANALGESIA/ANESTHESIA FOR ACUTE OR CHRONIC PAIN RELIEF:**

1. Administer medication (opiates, local anesthetics, steroids, alpha-agonist, or combinations thereof) to the epidural and intrathecal space and peripheral nerve with the use of an electronic pump, infusion reservoir or by direct re-bolus exclusive of the administration of the test dose or initial dose of medication to determine correct catheter or infusion device placement which is administered by the physician, certified registered nurse anesthetist or anesthesiologist.

2. The RN with training and competency may assist the Anesthesiologist/ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) with the administration of a peripheral nerve block with the Anesthesiologist/ CRNA present and managing the needle placement. The RN may push the medication at the direction of the Anesthesiologist/ CRNA while the Anesthesiologist/ CRNA is holding and managing the needle placement.
3. Monitor, maintain, regulate, and/or terminate a continuous epidural, intrathecal or peripheral nerve infusion of medications (opiates, local anesthetics, steroids, alpha-agonist, or combinations thereof) as ordered by a physician, and within the established guidelines, policies, and procedures formulated with input and approval of licensed physicians, anesthesiologists, and/or certified registered nurse anesthetists. In home care, physician support and supervision may be available via telecommunication systems.
4. Attach infusion tubing and devices to epidural, intrathecal or peripheral nerve catheters in place (and placement verified), as ordered by physician and under the supervision of a licensed physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist.

This applies, but is not limited to, situations in which:

- a. Patient requires acute or chronic pain management.
- b. Patient requires post-surgical pain management.
- c. Physician provider verified correct catheter placement.
- d. Patient's vital signs are stabilized.
- e. Patient's anesthesia/analgesic level is established.

#### MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF INTRAPARTUM EPIDURAL ANESTHESIA/ANALGESIA:

1. Monitor the intrapartum patient receiving epidural anesthesia/analgesia provided a licensed physician, anesthesiologist and/or certified registered nurse anesthetist is present and responsible (IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE ON SITE.)
2. Terminate an epidural infusion with immediate notification of the attending physician, certified registered nurse anesthetist or certified nurse midwife. This monitored care is only to be done following stabilization of vital signs after either bolus injection or establishment of continuous pump infusion by physician, anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist.
3. The RN may replace empty infusion syringes or bags with prepared solutions provided that the solution is verified by a second licensed nurse. The RN MAY NOT prepare solutions for infusion, alter the rate (increase or decrease), inject, bolus, re-bolus the anesthetic/analgesic infusion. The registered nurse may not insert the catheter, position or reposition, or flush to maintain patency.

#### REMOVAL OF CATHETER:

The RN may remove epidural or peripheral nerve (not intrathecal) catheters, provided insertion was documented to be uncomplicated.

The Board recognizes that these responsibilities are an additional act for the RN. The agency policies and procedures should address how the agency will assure a physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse authorizes to administer epidural and intrathecal therapy/procedures. Medications to be administered by the RN and dose ranges are to be listed in the policies and procedures. The nursing department is advised to obtain patient specific written medical orders which indicate mechanical and physiological parameters to be monitored and reported to the physician.

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

## **REPORTING MISCONDUCT AND VIOLATIONS OF THE NURSE PRACTICE ACT**

It has come to the attention of the S.C. Board of Nursing that there is reluctance on the part of some employers to report violations of the Nurse Practice Act by their employees.

S. C. Code Ann. § 40-33-111(A) of the Nurse Practice Act states that:

(A) An employer, including an agency, or supervisor of nurses, shall report any instances of the misconduct or the incapacities described in Section 40-33-110 to the State Board of Nursing not more than fifteen business days, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, from the discovery of the misconduct or incapacity. A nurse supervisor who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity may be subject to disciplinary action and civil sanctions as provided for in Section 40-33-120. An employer who is not licensed by the board and who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation upon notice of the board.

The Board believes it is important to note there are possible sanctions for employers who fail to report misconduct or incapacities in a timely manner to the Board. It is important for the safety of the citizens of South Carolina that nurses and employers of nurses adhere to the S.C. Nurse Practice Act.

## **GET TO KNOW A BOARD MEMBER**

**Name:** Lisa Cox Irvin Schafer, RN, MSN, NEA-BC

**Professional Background/Experience:** I have been the Vice President and Senior Nurse Executive for Roper Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina since 2005. Prior to that promotion, I was the Director of Cardiovascular Clinical Services at Roper for two years. The rest of my career includes six years as an ADN nursing faculty member and nearly two decades of staff and management positions at MUSC, primarily in cardiovascular, critical care and trauma services.

**Why did you want to be on the Board?** I was honored to have the opportunity to be a member of the State Board of Nursing. I believe the role of the State Board will be particularly critical in the upcoming years as nurses face significant changes in health care delivery of our nation. With national mandates to decrease costs and improve health outcomes, nursing is positioned to have a significant impact on the future health of citizens of our state and country. I thought it was important to have a nurse leader on the board who is intimately involved with the challenges of the daily practice of nursing.

**What do you like most about working with SC BON?** I have learned a great deal more about nursing education programs, the legislative process, due process, and the laws governing our practice. I have a much greater appreciation for the processes that protect both the public and the nursing workforce and LLR's commitment to continuous improvement.

**Hobbies:** I spend my spare time traveling, running, playing tennis and hiking in the mountains. Last February my husband and I hiked to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak in Africa.

### **LICENSE CHECK**

To check a nursing license, you may utilize one or all of the following options:

1. **SC Licensee Lookup** - Go to [www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/), click on Licensee Lookup (Magnifying Glass) and choose Nursing. As you enter information, it is recommended that you enter a portion of the nurse's name only. You will be provided with the nurse's name, city and state, license number, as well as license type, date issued/ expires, license status and whether the license is multi-state or single state.
2. **Nursys QuickConfirm** - Go to <https://www.nursys.com/> click on QuickConfirm and follow the instructions. You will be provided with the nurse's name, state of licensure, license type and number, license status, license expiration date and discipline status. The following states participate in QuickConfirm: Alaska, Arkansas, American Samoa, Arizona, California-RN, California-VN, Colorado, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana-RN, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Northern Mariana Islands, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, *South Carolina*, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia-PN, West Virginia-RN, and Wyoming. Go to NCSBN.org for updates as states are added.
3. **Other States** - Most states have licensee lookup/licensure verification on their websites. Links to boards of nursing can be found at [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org).

You may check for discipline against a South Carolina nursing license on the Board's website at [www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/) under Board Orders.

### **ATTENTION APRNs**

You must notify the Board of your certification, re-certification or renewal.

- Are you licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)?
- Have you renewed your certification?
- Did you know the Board does not automatically receive notification you have renewed your certification?
- Did you know it is the licensee's responsibility to provide the Board with a copy of his or her current certification / recertification?

If you have recently become certified, recertified or renewed your certification, please mail a copy of your current certification card to: LLR-Board of Nursing, Attn: Advanced Practice Licensure, P. O. Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. You may also scan your document and email to [Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov](mailto:Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov) or send your document by fax to 803-896-4515.

### **NAME CHANGE ON NURSING LICENSE**

If you have had a legal name change, submit your written request ,along with a copy of the legal document(s) (copy of marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order, etc.), to LLR – Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. Please indicate in your request whether you will use your middle name or maiden name for your middle initial or if you wish to hyphenate your name. For example, if Jane Ann Doe marries John Smith will she use Jane Ann Smith? or Jane Doe Smith? or Jane Ann Doe Smith? or Jane Ann Doe-Smith? Your request will be processed within five business days of receipt in Board offices and will be reflected on Licensee Lookup within three to five business days after the change is made.

You may verify that your name change request has been processed on Licensee Lookup on the Board's website ([www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/)). When utilizing Licensee Lookup, you do not have to enter complete names. For example, "J" and "Smith" will search for records with a last name of "Smith" and a first name beginning with "J." Refer to Section 04-33-36(B) of the Nurse Practice Act regarding statutory requirements for your name on your license. You may view the Nurse Practice Act – Chapter 33 located under Law/Policies on the Board's website.

### **HAVE YOU MOVED?**

Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. So you do not miss important time-sensitive information from the Board, such as your courtesy renewal notice, audit notice or other important licensure information, be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change your address. Failure to notify the Board of an address change may result in a public reprimand and \$500 civil penalty.

You may change your address online utilizing the address change form under Online Services found on the Board's website: [www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/).

**Note:** *Changing your address with the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) does not change your address on your licensing records with the South Carolina State Board of Nursing.*

### **RETURNED CHECKS**

When submitting any fees to the Board of Nursing, be certain there are sufficient funds in your account to cover your payment (*paper or electronic check or credit card*) and that the payment has cleared before closing the account. Section 40-1-50(G) of the South Carolina Code of Laws states that a license shall be suspended if a fee payment is made by a check that is subsequently returned by the financial institution unpaid and is not made good within 10 days of official notification. This suspension is exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act. Unpaid checks constitute a non-payment of license fees. Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. When a check is returned, replacement funds, plus the returned check fee allowed by law, will be charged.

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

When is the last time you visited the Board of Nursing's website? The Board recommends that all nurses licensed by or working in South Carolina visit its website ([www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/)) *at least* monthly for up-to-date information on nursing licensure in South Carolina. When a new advisory opinion is issued or a current advisory opinion revised, it is updated on the website. The Competency Requirement, Competency Requirement Criteria, Licensure information, Advisory Opinions, Position Statements and the Nurse Practice Act are just a few of the valuable tools and information you will find on the website.

The Advisory Opinions, Position Statements and the Nurse Practice Act are located under Laws/Policies. The Competency Requirement and Competency Requirement Criteria, which includes continuing education contact hours, are located under Licensure.

The Board hopes you will find this information useful in your nursing practice.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Samuel H. McNutt, RN, CRNA, MHSA, Congressional District 5 - *President*  
Carol A. Moody, RN, MAS, NEA-BC, Congressional District 4 - *Vice President*  
Amanda E. Baker, RN, MSN, MNA, CRNA, Congressional District 2 - *Secretary*  
Tara R. Hulse, PhD, RN, CNE, Congressional District 1  
W. Kay Swisher, RNC, MSN, Congressional District 3  
Lisa Cox Schafer, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, Congressional District 6  
Karen R. Hazzard MSN, RN, NE-BC, Congressional District 7

Anne Crook, PhD, Public Member  
James E. Mallory, EdD, Public Member

Vacancies: [See Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act for prerequisites and requirements]

(2) Licensed Practical Nurses At Large

**S.C. BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Main Telephone Line	(803) 896-4550
Fax Line	(803) 896-4515
General Email	<a href="mailto:Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov">Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/">www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/</a>

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to the office can be found on the website - [www.llronline.com](http://www.llronline.com) - at the bottom of the page. The Board's mailing address is LLR - Office of Board Services - SC Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367.

Normal agency business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices are closed for holidays designated by the state.

**BOARD OF NURSING ADMINISTRATION**

Nancy G. Murphy, Administrator	<a href="mailto:nancy.murphy@llr.sc.gov">nancy.murphy@llr.sc.gov</a>
Shannon Beaudry, Assistant to Administrator	<a href="mailto:shannon.beaudry@llr.sc.gov">shannon.beaudry@llr.sc.gov</a>

**OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Main Telephone Line	(803) 896-4470
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**VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/)**

The Board of Nursing Website contains the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 33-Laws Governing Nursing in South Carolina), Regulations (Chapter 91), Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Licensure applications, Continued Competency Requirements/Criteria, Application Status, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other helpful information. All nurses are encouraged to visit the website *at least* monthly for up-to-date information.

**Board of Nursing Meeting Calendar for 2013**

(Board and Committee meeting agendas are posted on the Board's website ([www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/](http://www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/)) at least 24 hours prior to meeting.)

<u>Board of Nursing Meeting</u>	May 16-17, 2013
<u>Board of Nursing Meeting</u>	July 25-26, 2013

Board of Nursing Meeting  
Board of Nursing Meeting

September 26-27, 2013  
November 21-22, 2013

Advanced Practice Committee  
Advanced Practice Committee  
Advanced Practice Committee

May 3, 2013  
August 2, 2013  
November 1, 2013

Advisory Committee on Nursing  
Advisory Committee on Nursing  
Advisory Committee on Nursing  
Advisory Committee on Nursing  
Advisory Committee on Nursing

April 16, 2013  
June 18, 2013  
August 27, 2013  
October 15, 2013  
December 3, 2013

Nursing Practice & Standards Committee  
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee  
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee

April 11, 2013  
July 11, 2013  
October 10, 2013

**Designated 2013 State Holidays**

**Observed On**

Confederate Memorial Day  
National Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Day after Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day  
Day after Christmas

Friday, May 10, 2013  
Monday, May 27, 2013  
Thursday, July 4, 2013  
Monday, September 2, 2013  
Monday, November 11, 2013  
Thursday, November 28, 2013  
Friday, November 29, 2013  
Tuesday, December 24, 2013  
Wednesday, December 25, 2013  
Thursday, December 26, 2013