

South Dakota Board of Nursing

LPN Scope of Practice

This table provides a list with some of the tasks LPNs may or may not be allowed to perform. Keep in mind, in order for a task to be within a nurse's scope the appropriately prepared nurse must:

- Be educated and competent to perform the procedure or activity;
- Have an appropriate medical order for the procedure;
- Practice according to accepted standards of practice;
- Have a facility policy or procedure in place that supports the performance of the task or activity, as appropriate; and
- Have in place adequate level supervision by a licensed RN, APRN, physician, or other health care provider authorized by the Board.
- An RN or APRN who supervises the practice of an LPN shall determine if direct or minimal supervision is required after considering:
 1. The educational preparation of the LPN;
 2. The depth of knowledge needed to perform the task and potential threat to the client's well-being;
 3. The stability of the nursing situation;
 4. The qualifications and number of personnel in the facility and proximity of the clients to personnel;
 5. Accessible resources in the facility; and
 6. Established policies, procedures, practices, and channels of communication that lend support to the types of nursing services offered.

Task/Responsibility	<i>If in an LPN's individual scope, may:</i>	May not:
Assessment & Care Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a focused nursing assessment including gathering and recording assessment data, observing, monitoring, and reporting signs, symptoms, and changes in a patient's condition in an ongoing manner to the RN or supervising health care provider. • Assist with developing patient health care plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a comprehensive assessment or develop a care plan. • Establish nursing diagnosis. • Prescribe independent nursing interventions or strategies.
Patient Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with health counseling, admission, and discharge teaching of patients. 	
Prescriber Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and document orders according to facility policies. 	
Charge Nurse & Delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept role of charge nurse, team leader in stable nursing setting. • Delegate to and supervise nursing assistants (CNA, Med Aide) only those tasks the LPN is competent to perform and in accordance with ARSD 20:48:04.01. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise licensed health care professionals. • Delegate SQ insulin administration.
Foley Catheter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert, remove, irrigate tube. 	
Suprapubic Catheter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change or replace tube. 	
Gastrostomy Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change or replace tube. • Administer medication via tube. 	
Nasogastric Tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert and remove. • Administer medication via tube. 	
Tracheostomy Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suction, perform dressing changes. 	
Wound Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform sterile, complex dressing changes. • Remove sutures and staples. 	
Medication Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer oral, SQ, IM, topical, rectal, vaginal, inhalation, eye, and ear. See IV therapy section for additional information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer fluids, medications, or agents via an epidural, intrathecal, intraosseous, umbilical, or ventricular reservoir routes.

Task/Responsibility	<i>If in an LPN's individual scope, may:</i>	May not:
Dialysis: Hemodialysis & Peritoneal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dialysis treatments for clients 12 year and older following completion of additional education pursuant to ARSD 20:48:04:02.03. • Initiate, monitor, and discontinue dialysis treatments for peripheral or central catheter access devices according to IV therapy guidelines described below. 	
Laboratory Blood Draws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform peripheral venipuncture according to lab requirements and facility policy, same as a phlebotomist. • Obtain blood samples from a peripheral or central line for clients 12 years and older according to standards of nursing practice and lab requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert or remove/discontinue midline IV catheter, PICCs, or central lines. • Insert port-a-cath needles.
Intravenous (IV) Therapy <i>Pursuant to ARSD 20:48:04:06 and 20:48:04:07</i>	<i>Both peripheral & central lines:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clients 12 years and older. • Obtain blood samples. • Assemble and maintain infusion equipment. • Administer IV fluids, with or without added medication, that have been prepared and labeled by a pharmacist, RN, physician, dentist, or manufacturer. • Calculate and adjust infusion rates using standard formulas. • Reconstitute medications by activation of a manufacturer's prepared bag and vial system. • Flush with heparin or saline solutions. • Assemble and maintain patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) infusion equipment, program the pump pursuant to an order that prescribes a specific dose, and assist a client with self-bolus when needed. • Discontinue IV therapy infusion, blood products, and plasma volume expanders. • Perform routine dressing changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer medications for the purpose of inducing moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia. • Administer the following IV medications (listed in § 20:48:04:07): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Antiarrhythmics ○ Chemotherapy (may monitor) ○ Biologics, including immunotherapy ○ Fibrinolytics ○ Immunoglobulins ○ Investigative or experimental ○ Oxytocics ○ Paralytics ○ Thrombolytics ○ Tocolytics ○ Vasoactives • Titrate medications requiring continuous assessments to determine the dosage of medication or agent.
	<i>Peripheral lines only; may:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert peripheral venous access devices, using a needle or catheter not to exceed 3 inches in length. • Administer intradermal, SQ, or topical local anesthetics for pain control with peripheral catheter insertion. • Administer IV push medications, if direct RN supervision is provided, and not prohibited in § 20:48:04:07, and if administered in a licensed healthcare facility. • Remove IV catheters that do not exceed 3 inches in length. 	
<i>Central lines only:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer TPN and fat emulsions. • Remove implanted venous access device needle (port-a-cath). 		
Blood Administration <i>Pursuant to ARSD 20:48:04:06 & 20:48:04:06.01</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor blood product and plasma volume expander administration after RN administers blood product and monitors client for initial 15 minutes. • After an LPN completes education and training on a specific type of blood product to be transfused, an RN may assign to the LPN the administration of that specific blood product, for clients 12 years of age or older, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The LPN demonstrates clinical competence in the blood product to be administered; ○ Will be administering the blood product in a licensed hospital that allows the LPN to do so; and ○ The LPN will be directly supervised during the administration of the blood product by an RN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer a blood product outside of a licensed hospital or without direct supervision.