



South Dakota Board of Nursing

South Dakota Department of Health
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Advisory Opinions on Emergency Nursing Care

The South Dakota Board of Nursing is authorized by the state of South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-1.1, to safeguard life, health and the public welfare; and to protect citizens from unauthorized, unqualified and improper application of nursing practices.

The practice of registered nurses, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-3 (14,) and licensed practical nurses, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-4 (10), allows a nurse to perform other acts that require education and training consistent with professional standards as prescribed by the board, by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26, and commensurate with the nurse's education, demonstrated competence, and experience.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing issues opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. An opinion is issued as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice, and to facilitate the delivery of safe, effective nursing care to the public.

Approval Date: March 2003
Editorial Revisions: December 2018

Nursing Care in an Emergency

The South Dakota Board of Nursing supports that nursing care provided in an emergency is not restricted to the basic scope of practice identified in [ARSD 20:48:04:01](#). This clarifies scope of practice for nurses in an emergency under SDCL 36-9-28 Practice not prohibited by chapter.

Flight Nurse Procedures

The South Dakota Board of Nursing affirmed that the procedures listed below are within the scope of practice for the RN practicing in a flight program with additional training and demonstrated competence:

Approval Date: March 2003
Revised: September 2005 and February 2010
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- Intubation
- Needle Thoracotomy
- Low-lying Umbilical Venous Catheter (UVC) Placement (February 2010)
- Blunt Insertion of Chest Tubes (September 2005)
- Rapid Sequence Induction
- Administration of Pancuronium Bromide (Pavulon)
- Chricothyrotomy

Applicable South Dakota Nursing Laws

- [36-9-28. Practices not prohibited by chapter](#)
- [36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
- [36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)