



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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Emergency Services Provided by LPNs and RNs

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 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: November 4, 2025

Statement

The Board of Nursing supports that nursing care provided in an emergency is not restricted to the nurse's basic scope of practice, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-28 (1). RNs and LPNs may perform emergency medical services that are consistent with professional standards, commensurate with the nurse's educational preparation, experience, and demonstrated competence, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-3(14), 36-9-4, 36-9-4.1, and ARSD Chapter 20:48:04, and according to agency policy or credentialing requirements.

Nurses may administer emergency services according to an approved medical protocol, standardized procedure, or standing order, pursuant to ARSD §§ 20:48:04:01.01 and 20:48:04:01.02.

In an emergency setting, LPNs must be directly supervised by an RN, advanced practice registered nurse, physician, or physician's assistant, pursuant to ARSD subdivision 20:48:01:01(4). On an ambulance, the LPN may be directly supervised through the use of electronic communication.

A nurse is accountable to follow the standards of nursing practice listed in ARSD § 20:48:04:01, to utilize the Board's approved [Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework](#), and to reference the "LPN & RN Emergency Tasks" document.

Applicable South Dakota Laws and Rules

1. [SDCL 36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
2. [SDCL 36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)
3. [SDCL 36-9-4.1. Additional functions after special training of licensed practical nurse](#)
4. [SDCL 36-9-28. Practices not prohibited by chapter](#)
5. [ARSD 20:48:01:01 Definitions](#)
6. [ARSD 20:48:04:01 Standards of nursing practice -- Registered nurse and licensed practical nurse](#)
7. [ARSD 20:48:04:01.01 Scope of nursing practice -- Registered nurse](#)
8. [ARSD 20:48:04:01.02 Scope of nursing practice -- Licensed practical nurse](#)

LPN & RN Emergency Tasks

Reference: South Dakota Scope of Practice Guide for Emergency Medical Services Personnel
available at: <https://www.sdbmoe.gov/media/z3apyeg5/ems-scope-of-practice.pdf>

Activity / Task	RN SOP	LPN SOP	Recommendation	
Airway / Ventilation / Oxygenation				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airway: Mouth-to-Mouth, Mouth-to-Barrier, Mouth-to-Mask, Mouth-to-Nose, Mouth-to-Stoma 	✓	✓	Hold current CPR and ACLS certification.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airway - Nasopharyngeal, Oropharyngeal, Supraglottic Airway Device 	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasotracheal & Endotracheal Intubation Rapid Sequence Induction for Intubation 	✓			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airway Obstruction – Manual, Forceps & Laryngoscope Head-Tilt / Chin-Lift Jaw-Thrust, Jaw-Thrust – Modified Bag Valve Mask (BVM) 	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPAP; BiPAP Capnography - End Tidal CO2 Monitoring Chest Seal Manual Airway Maneuvers Gastric Decompression-NG/OG Tube 	✓	✓		Additional training and competency validation needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricoid Pressure (Sellick) Cricothyrotomy – Surgical/Needle Chest Decompression - Needle 	✓			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen Therapy - Tracheal Tube, Nasal Cannula, Non-Rebreather Mask, Simple Face Mask & Partial NRB, Venturi Mask, Humidified Suctioning - Upper Airway (soft & rigid), Tracheobronchial Ventilators - Automated Transport Ventilator, Variable Setting 	✓	✓		
Assessment Skills / Miscellaneous				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform Patient Assessments 	✓	✓	LPN: may observe, monitor, and report signs, symptoms, and changes in a patient's condition to supervising Physician, APRN, or RN.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Vital Signs Manually or Electronically, Temperature Pulse Oximetry 	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Blood Glucose 	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted Delivery (Childbirth) 	✓	✓		

Activity / Task	RN SOP	LPN SOP	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest Tube Monitoring 	✓	✓	Additional training and competency validation needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blunt Chest Tube Insertion 	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eye Irrigation (Non-Invasive) 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Physical Restraint Application 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venous Blood Sampling (Obtaining) 	✓	✓	
Cardiovascular / Circulation			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3, 4, 12, 15, or 18 Lead EKG transmission (Mission LifeLine) & Monitoring / Interpretation 	✓	✓	Additional training and competency validation needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Cardiocerebral Resuscitation (CCR) 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of mechanical CPR Assist Devices 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardioversion-Electrical 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defibrillation – AED-Manual 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valsalva Maneuver 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hemorrhage Control Products, Direct Pressure, Pressure Point, Tourniquet 	✓	✓	
Trauma Care			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spinal immobilization - Cervical Collar, Long Board, Manual Stabilization, Seated Patient (KED, etc.) 	✓	✓	Additional training and competency validation needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spine Motion Restriction 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Splinting – Manual, Pelvic Wrap / PASG (Only used for Splinting), Rigid, Soft, Traction, Vacuum 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Moves for Endangered Patient 	✓	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid Extrication of Patient 	✓	✓	
May Assist Patient with Patient Prescription			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhaler, Nitroglycerin, Oral Glucose 	✓	✓	All prescribed medications.
Medication Administration Routes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerosolized, Auto-Injector or Nasal Spray, Buccal (Cheek or Gum), Oral, Sublingual, Intramuscular 	✓	✓	LPN: Administer medications by oral, intradermal, SQ, IM, SL, eye, ear, nasal, rectal, topical, transdermal, vaginal, or inhalation routes. RN: All routes.

Activity / Task	RN SOP	LPN SOP	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IV Therapy (peripheral, central, PICC) 	✓	✓	LPN: individuals 12 years of age or older.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IV Therapy – Intraosseous, intrathecal, epidural, umbilical, ventricular reservoir 	✓		Additional training and competency validation needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umbilical Venous Catheter Placement 	✓		Additional training and competency validation needed.
Blood Administration			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blood product administration 	✓	✓	LPN: may administer and monitor in hospital setting for 12 years of age or older; may include for transports in emergency situation.