



**KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT**

**RN/LPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE DETERMINATION GUIDELINES**

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314 to regulate nurses, nursing education and practice, promulgate regulations and to issue advisory opinions on nursing practice, in order to assure that nurses provide safe and effective nursing care to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Board of Nursing issues advisory 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. It 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.

**Opinion:** RN/LPN Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines

**Approval Date:** 02/2018

***History of previous policy statement -  
Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines***

**Approval Date:** 02/1988

**Revised:** 08/1990; 02/1991; 10/1992; 6/2000;  
09/2001; 04/2005; 06/2015

**Reviewed:** 05/2007; 05/2009; 02/2018

**Editorial Revision:** 1/2011

**Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses**

In accordance with KRS 314.021(2), nurses are responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals' educational preparation and current clinical competence in nursing, and requires licensees to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Nursing practice should be consistent with the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*, established standards of practice, and be evidence based.

**Rationale for Advisory Opinion**

When the performance of a specific act is not definitively addressed in the *Kentucky Nursing Laws* or in an advisory opinion of the Board, the nurse must exercise professional judgment in determining whether the performance of the act is within the scope of practice for which the individual nurse is licensed. The KBN has developed a decision making model that provides guidelines to nurses in determining whether a selected act is within an individual nurse's scope of practice.

# KBN DECISION-MAKING MODEL FOR DETERMINING SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR RNs/LPNs

