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.

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<th>Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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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
Reviewed: 05/2007; 05/2009; 02/2018
Editorial Revision: 1/2011

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

1. Identify or describe the activity or intervention being performed.

   Do the Kentucky Nurse Practice Act, Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Kentucky Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion Statements, or any other applicable Kentucky laws support the activity or intervention? 

   - No: STOP

2. Is performing the activity or intervention consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature?

   - No: STOP

3. Are there facility/organization policies that support the activity or intervention?

   - No: STOP

4. Do you have the necessary education and clinical competence to perform the activity or intervention?

   - No: STOP

5. Do you have documented evidence of your current education and clinical competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgments) to perform the activity or intervention?

   - No: STOP

6. Is the performance of the act within the accepted "standard of care" which would be provided in similar circumstances by reasonable and prudent nurses who have similar training and experience?

   - No: STOP

7. Are you prepared to accept accountability for the activity or intervention and for the related outcome?

   - No: STOP

   - Yes: The nurse may perform the activity or intervention to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care. (KRS 314.021 Policy)