



## South Dakota Board of Nursing

South Dakota Department of Health

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### Performance of Medical Screening Examination by Registered Nurse

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,) allows registered nurses 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 registered 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:** November 1999

#### Statement

It is within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to conduct a medical screening examination and determine whether a patient has an emergency medical condition, pursuant to EMTALA.

Medical and nursing staff should be in agreement as to the written policies, procedures and protocols regarding the nurse's responsibilities in assessing patient conditions and instituting appropriate nursing actions, including mutually agreed upon criteria for reporting the findings of assessments and life-threatening conditions.

Only nurses who have satisfactorily demonstrated competency in the area of practice in the clinical setting should be allowed to perform such functions.

#### Applicable South Dakota Nursing Laws

1. [36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
2. [36-9-28 \(1\) Practices not prohibited by chapter](#)