



## South Dakota Board of Nursing

South Dakota Department of Health

4305 S. LOUISE AVENUE SUITE 201 ♦ SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106-3115

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# Advisory Opinions on Medication Administration by RNs and LPNs

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.

## Contents:

1. [LPNs Refilling Baclofen Pumps](#)
2. [More than One Medication for Same Indication and PRN Dose Ranges](#)
3. [Preparing Pre-loaded Insulin or Heparin syringes for Self-Administration by Residents](#)
4. [Placement of Oral Medications into Medication Planner](#)

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## 1. LPNs Refilling Baclofen Pumps

### Practice Statement:

The South Dakota Board of Nursing determined that refilling Baclofen pumps is beyond the scope of practice of Licensed Practical Nurses.

Baclofen, an automatic nervous system agent and central-acting skeletal muscle relaxant, is used with implantable intrathecal infusion pumps for the relief of severe spasticity. Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy (ITB) delivers an injection of medication via a programmable pump surgically placed and connected to a catheter in the intrathecal space.

**Reference:** Medtronic (2018). Retrieved from [www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com).

**Approval Date:** July 2003  
**Editorial Revisions:** December 2018

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## 2. More than One Medication for Same Indication and PRN Dose Ranges

### Practice Statement:

The South Dakota Board of Nursing determined that the following two situations are consistent with the practice of nursing:

- Determining which medication to administer when an authorized prescriber orders more than one medication for the same therapeutic indication.
- Determining the dose to administer when an authorized prescriber orders an as needed, PRN medication with a range of doses.

**Approval Date:** June 2018  
**Editorial Revisions:** December 2018

### Applicable South Dakota Nursing Laws

- [36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
- [36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)
- [ARSD 20:48](#)



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### 3. **Preparing Pre-loaded Insulin or Heparin syringes for Self-Administration by Residents**

#### **Injectable Medications Practice Statement:**

Licensed Nurses may load and label Insulin and Heparin dispensed by a pharmacist provided the following criteria are met:

- The pre-loaded Insulin or Heparin syringes are intended for residents capable of self-injection.
- The storage time for pre-loaded Insulin and Heparin syringes does not exceed the manufacturer's recommendation or seven (7) days, whichever is less.
- The pre-loaded Insulin and Heparin syringes are stored in a safe and appropriate area.
- If Insulin pens are used, a licensed nurse must be available at the time of administration if the resident needs assistance in selecting the dose.
- If it is necessary to load two types of Insulin in the syringe, the nurse is responsible to assure that the medications are compatible.

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
between SD Department of Health Office  
of Health Care Facilities Licensure and  
Certification, SD Board of Nursing, and  
SD Board of Pharmacy  
**Effective Date:** April 2, 2003

#### **Oral Medications Practice Statement:**

Licensed nurses may transfer prescribed medications from a container labeled and dispensed by a pharmacist or an over-the-counter medication to a medication planner which is labeled by the nurse under the following condition: The medication planner is intended for use by a resident who has been assessed as capable of self-administration.

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### 4. **Placement of Oral Medications into Medication Planner**

**Approval Date:** April 1998  
**Editorial Revisions:** December 2018

#### **Practice Statement:**

The South Dakota Board of Nursing affirms that the placement of medications in a medication planner is within the scope of practice for a licensed nurse.

A licensed nurse may delegate placement of medications in a medication planner to a registered medication aide. The licensed nurse is accountable to supervise the medication aide according to [ARSD 20:48:04.01:02](#). The licensed nurse must determine the degree of supervision required after an evaluation, supervision should occur a minimum of at least monthly.

#### **Applicable South Dakota Nursing Laws**

- [36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
- [36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)
- [ARSD 20:48:04.01](#)