



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201 | Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115

605-362-2760 | <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/>

Elective IV Infusion and Medication Therapy Guidelines

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 9, 2022

The following guidelines are intended to promote safe care. Licensed nurses and institutions are encouraged to also refer to other national standards of practice and evidence-based literature to identify additional guidelines or considerations specific to a practice setting or patient population served.

Practice Statement:

The South Dakota Board of Nursing affirms that it is within the scope of practice of a licensed nurse to administer intravenous (IV) therapy/hydration and medications, including drugs, substances, or additives such as vitamins, minerals, or electrolytes, for medical or wellness reasons, commensurate with each nurse's licensure, scope, educational preparation, and experience, to "implement nursing care through the execution of regimens requested, ordered, or prescribed by an authorized health care provider", pursuant to SDCL 36-9-3, 36-9-4, and ARSD 20:48.

The registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) who initiates any form of order, including standing order, protocol, prescription, or regimen, must act within the scope of the Nurse Practice Act (NPA), SDCL chapters 36-9 and ARSD 20:48, and any other applicable local, state, or federal laws.

The NPA does not authorize an LPN or RN to engage in acts that require independent medical judgment, medical diagnosis, or the ordering or prescribing of medications or therapeutic regimens. An LPN or RN must have a medical order to administer medication or IV therapy/hydration, including elective services provided at the request of a client in a non-traditional setting.

The licensee is personally responsible for the actions that the licensee performs relating to the nursing care furnished to clients and cannot avoid this responsibility by accepting the orders or directions of another person.

Written Protocol or Standing Order Guidelines:

Protocols are written instructions or orders for procedures prepared by an authorized medical provider.

- The protocol provides authority and defines a plan of medical/wellness care for use with clients who have not been previously examined or evaluated by an authorized medical provider for that condition.
- The protocol should be developed and designed for a client population with a specific health disorder, set of symptoms, or wellness need.
- The protocol should provide clear instructions on procedures or interventions that the nurse can follow, without using medical judgment, to assure that the procedures are carried out correctly and safely.

Protocols or standing orders at a minimum, should:

1. Be in writing, dated, and signed by the authorized medical provider;
2. Specify which acts require a particular level of training or licensure and under what circumstances they are to be performed;
3. Specify any experience, training, and/or education requirements for those persons who shall perform the procedures;



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4. Contain specific health history and assessment data to collect, the contraindications for treatment, and circumstances on when to consult with the medical provider;
5. State specific requirements which are to be followed by persons performing the procedures;
6. Be reviewed annually and updated according to accepted medical practice standards.

Healthcare Provider Guidelines:

A. Authorized Medical Provider Role:

A legally authorized medical provider, acting within their scope, is responsible to write an order for the administration of intravenous (IV) therapy/hydration and medications, including drugs, substances, or additives such as vitamins, minerals, or electrolytes, for medical or wellness reasons, for the RN or LPN to follow.

The medical provider is expected to:

1. Review the client's medical history and perform an assessment of the client's health status; or
2. Provide specific instructions within a written protocol that defines the review of the medical history and client assessment that must be performed by the nurse.
3. Develop a medical/wellness treatment plan that includes a specific order/prescription for IV and medication therapy.

B. RN Role:

An RN may perform nursing interventions including the provision of IV therapy and medication administration as ordered by a qualified medical prescriber.

It is not within the RN scope to prescribe, order, or procure drugs or substances for medication administration or IV therapy/hydration.

C. LPN Role:

An LPN may assist and participate in the performance of IV therapy and medication administration as ordered by a legally authorized medical prescriber in a stable nursing situation under the supervision of an RN, APRN, physician, or other authorized health care provider, who is readily available in person or by electronic communication.

The following tasks may be performed by an LPN:

- May perform peripheral venipuncture and administration of IV therapy for clients 12 years and older;
- Assemble and maintain equipment for gravity drip infusion and electronic controlling devices;
- Calculate and adjust infusion rates using standard formulas;
- Perform routine tubing set changes;
- Administer standard solutions, such as normal saline, at a defined flow rate, with or without admixtures that have been mixed and labeled by a pharmacist, RN, or physician;
- Administer vitamins, antibiotics, corticosteroids, and H2 antagonists by piggyback route, mixed and labeled by a pharmacist, RN, or physician; excluding the first dose which must be administered by an RN, or other authorized health care provider;
- Perform routine dressing changes;
- Perform routine saline and heparin flushes.

The following tasks may NOT be performed by an LPN:

- Administer medications by direct IV push or bolus routes.
- Prescribe or order drugs, substances, or IV therapy/hydration.



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Practice Setting Guidelines:

1. Maintain written policies relating to the procedures that will be performed that are consistent with applicable standards of practice and evidence-based practice;
2. Maintain documentation on:
 - a. Client assessments and medical history data;
 - b. Education provided to the client on the prescribed infusion and/or medication therapy;
 - c. Client's Informed consent for procedure(s);
 - d. Specific procedures performed and client response to procedure;
3. Establish a method for initial and continuing evaluation of the competence of healthcare providers;
4. Have in place an emergency management plan that includes when to refer or consult with the authorized medical provider;
5. Have in place infection control measures that are consistent with applicable standards;
6. Follow state or federal requirements for the ordering and procurement of medications, IV solutions, or additives, including vitamins, minerals, or electrolytes. Substances must be obtained from a South Dakota licensed wholesale drug distributor or a South Dakota licensed 503B outsourcing facility; and
7. Follow state or federal requirements for the preparation and administration of medications, IV solutions, or additives, including vitamins, minerals, or electrolytes that meet United States Pharmacopeial (USP) <797> Pharmaceutical Compounding-Sterile Preparations compounding standards.

Nursing Corporation:

Licensed nurses who own a business to provide nursing services and have a nursing corporation registered with the Secretary of State must register the nursing corporation with the SDBON as a professional corporation:
[Nursing Corporation Registration & Certificate of Registration for a Healthcare Professional Corporation](#).

References

1. Gorski LA, Hadaway L, Hagle ME, et al. *Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice, 8th Edition*. Journal of Infusion Nursing. 2021; 44 (suppl 1):S1-S224.
2. National Infusion Center Association. (2019). *Minimum standards for in-office infusion*. Retrieved from: <https://infusioncenter.org/2019-06-19-nica-minimum-standards-for-in-office-infusion/>.
3. North Carolina Board of Nursing (2022). Position Statement: Administration of Intravenous Fluids (IV Hydration), Nutrient Therapies, and Medications for Hydration, Health, and Wellness. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbon.com/myfiles/downloads/position-statements-decision-trees/iv-hydration-clinics.pdf>.
4. South Dakota Board of Nursing. *Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework*. Retrieved from: <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/PDF/ScopeofPractice3.pdf>.
5. United States Pharmacopeial Convention. (2014). USP general chapter <797> Pharmaceutical Compounding-Sterile Preparations.

Applicable South Dakota Laws and Rules

1. [36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
2. [36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)
3. [36-9A-12. Practice of certified nurse practitioner](#)
4. [34-52. Telehealth utilization by health care professionals](#)
5. [20:48:01. Definitions](#)
6. [20:48:04:01. Scope and standards of nursing practice](#)
7. [20:48:04:06. Intravenous therapy functions which may be performed by licensed practical nurses](#)
8. [20:48:04:07. Intravenous therapy functions which may not be performed by licensed practical nurses](#)