

DEATH PRONOUNCEMENT – BOARD OPINION UPDATED ON 07/27/2023

Q: As a nurse, is it within my scope of practice to pronounce death of a patient?

A: In July 2023, the Board reaffirmed their previous position adopted in 1995 related to pronouncing death and the nurses' scope of practice. The Board's 1995 opinion deferred the use of standing orders related to pronouncing of death to the facility and recommended that facilities adhere to rules established by the organization which accredits and/or licenses the facility; facility legal counsel; and corporate by-laws. The facility should adhere to the Nurse Practice Act in the ND Century Code and Administrative Code and utilize the ND Board of Nursing adopted Scope of Practice Decision Making Framework to assist licensees, employers, and legal counsel in evaluating scope of practice questions not addressed specifically in law, rules, or practice statements.