



## Nebraska Board of Nursing

# ADVISORY OPINION

**OPINION:** CPR: Nurse's  
Accountability  
**ADOPTED:** February, 2007  
**REVISED:**  
**REAFFIRMED:** 12/12

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

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## CPR: Nurse's Accountability to Perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

All licensed nurses, regardless of their practice setting, are accountable in an emergency to resuscitate individuals who are present in the practice setting for the purpose of receiving care, unless the individual has a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order or other advanced directive. Nurses should perform resuscitation based on their assessment of the situation and their level of competency. Current CPR certification is not required in order for the nurse to be accountable to assist the individual to the best of his/her ability. However, maintaining current CPR certification is the professional standard for all licensed nurses.

A nurse is not expected to perform resuscitation on an individual when obvious signs of death are present unless facility policy states otherwise. Obvious signs of death include lividity or pooling of blood in dependent body parts (livor mortis), cooling of the body following death (algor mortis), hardening of muscles or rigidity (rigor mortis), and injuries incompatible with life.

A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgement of personal limitations in knowledge and skills, and communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

### *References:*

2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. (2010). Retrieved September 12, 2012 from [http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/122/18\\_suppl\\_3/S720.full?sid=ecd77984-9642-48c1-b22e-162a0402cf62](http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/122/18_suppl_3/S720.full?sid=ecd77984-9642-48c1-b22e-162a0402cf62)

[American Heart Association Statements and Guidelines](#)

