

ADVISORY  
OPINION

**OPINION:** Casting  
**ADOPTED:** Oct. 1991  
**REVISED:** April 1996, April 2015  
**TEMPLATE REVISED:** Aug. 2016  
**REAFFIRMED:** May 2000, Nov. 2013,  
Aug. 2016

Casting

It is the opinion of the Board that it is acceptable practice for licensed nurses in the specialty of orthopedics to apply principles of fracture treatment. Such practice may include cast application for simple fractures after a diagnosis has been made by a qualified licensed practitioner.

The application of a total contact cast for the treatment of diabetic ulcers is in the scope of practice of the appropriately trained licensed nurse.

The decision to provide any nursing care should be based upon self-assessment of competency, following an assessment of the client and environment. 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 acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills and communication of the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

Advisory Opinions

The Nebraska Board of Nursing may choose to issue advisory opinions in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 (2). As such, advisory opinions are for informational purposes only and are non-binding. The advisory opinions may define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing. Nursing practice, however, is constantly evolving and advisory opinions can become outdated. Ultimately, Nebraska law and Board regulations require the licensee to provide nursing care services within parameters consistent with education, skills, experience, and current competence. Application of the [Decision-Making Model](#) is encouraged.

## *References*

National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (NAON). (2013). Scope and standards of orthopaedic nursing practice (3rd ed.). SmithBucklin, Chicago, IL: National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses

[National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses](#)

[AAOS Clinical Guidelines](#)