

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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## Suturing and Skin Adhesives: Wound Closure and Anchoring

The performance of simple stapling or suturing for anchoring catheter devices or superficial wound closure is within the scope of the licensed registered nurse. The RN performing simple stapling or suturing should be properly trained and possesses the required knowledge, skill and competence. The wound must be evaluated by a licensed practitioner and should consist of subcutaneous tissue only. NO muscle, nerve, tendon, or blood vessels should be sutured by the RN unless the RN meets the definition and competency of a Registered Nurse First Assist (RNFA).

Topical skin adhesives such as Dermabond® can be applied by a licensed nurse following wound evaluation by a licensed practitioner. Topical skin adhesives should be applied by the competent nurse following manufacturer's indications and instructions for use.

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 communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

### References

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