It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to provide fluids and medications via subcutaneous infusion if the requirements below are met. It is not within the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to provide subcutaneous infusions of immunoglobulin’s or chemotherapy.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
   A. Written policy and procedures of employer will designating what drugs may be given by the nurse via subcutaneous infusion and all procedures related to administration and maintenance.
   B. Completion of an instructional programs and supervised clinical practice for administering subcutaneous infusions including use of pump, tubing, needle/catheter, site preparation/changes and dressings.
   C. The Licensed Practical Nurse has satisfactorily completed an instructional program or equivalent as outlined in ADVISORY OPINION INTRAVENOUS INFUSION THERAPY / VENIPUNCTURE: THE ROLE OF THE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE. Refer to this advisory opinion for required instructional program & medications administered subcutaneously by an LPN.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION
   A. Anatomy and physiology related to subcutaneous infusion.
   B. Insertion techniques specific to subcutaneous infusion. Generally the subcutaneous access device is placed in the abdomen, upper arm, or thigh in the subcutaneous tissue.
   C. Complications and management techniques to include potential adverse reactions: inflammation of the site, occluded tubing, lack of absorption, fluid overload, extravasations, bacteremia, and thrombosis.
   D. Nursing responsibilities: patient education; preparing/monitoring the infusion; insertion of devices and sites changes, monitoring for complications.

III. RATIONALE
   Medication administration via subcutaneous route can be safely administered by nurses if general requirements and course of instruction are met.


