



## Arizona State Board of Nursing

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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.

**OPINION: BLOOD CELL SALVAGE**  
**APPROVED DATE: 11/90**  
**REVISED DATE: 11/03, 7/07, 1/11**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of  RN  LPN

### ADVISORY OPINION BLOOD CELL SALVAGE: THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to operate blood cell salvage devices if the following requirements are met:

#### I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer/agency.
- B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice may operate cell salvage devices.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer
- D. Auto-transfusion can be performed by the RN with the order of the physician.

#### II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the vascular system and hematology.
- B. Indications and contraindications for cell salvage.
- C. Potential adverse reactions
- D. How the differences between collection sites affect the shed blood collected.
- E. Aseptic technique and infection control guidelines.
- F. Identification and management of complications.
- G. Nursing care responsibilities.
- H. Utilization of sterile equipment.
- I. Appropriate patient identification and documentation requirements.

#### III. RATIONALE

To ensure consistency and competency in operating blood cell salvage devices.

#### IV. REFERENCES

Specht, M. D., Hofer, J. E., Valentine, N. K., & Keturi, J. (1997). Development and implementation of a perioperative autologous service program. *AORN Journal*, 66 (3), 486-492.