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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:

APPROVED DATE: 07/12

REVISED DATE:

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION INFORMED CONSENT

The definition of informed consent is "...advising a patient of a proposed medical procedure, alternatives to the medical procedure, associated risks, and possible complications, and obtaining authorization of the patient or the patient's representative for the procedure: (AAC, R9-10-201.53).

It is within the scope of practice of the Registered Nurse (RN) to obtain informed consent for treatments and procedures that the RN will perform if the general requirements are met.

It is within the scope of practice of a RN & Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to witness signatures on documentation indicating understanding of informed consent provided by other practitioners, such as physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and physician.

It is NOT within the scope of practice of the RN to obtain informed consent for medical treatment plans.

It is NOT within the scope of practice of the RN to obtain informed consent for any treatment or procedure that the RN will not perform, such as surgery, radiological procedures, and others.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A written policy and procedure specific to informed consent is maintained by the employer
- B. A written order for the procedure is present from a licensed practitioner.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised clinical practice for the treatment or procedure to be performed

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

The nurse obtaining informed consent must have knowledge of and competency of the treatment or procedure to be completed and disclose the following to the client:

1. Diagnostic rationale for the procedure
2. Nature and purpose of the treatment or procedure
3. Risks and benefits of the proposed treatment or procedure
4. Reasonable alternatives
5. Relevant risks, benefits, uncertainties of each alternative
6. Risks and benefits of not undergoing the treatment or procedure

III. RATIONALE

The intent of this advisory opinion is to provide clarification for RNs who obtain informed consents for treatments and procedures for which they have demonstrated satisfactory instruction and supervised clinical practice, and allowed within the policies of the organization where the treatment or procedure will occur.

IV. REFERENCES

Arizona Bioethics Network. (2012). Informed consent. *Bioethics*. Retrieved from www.azbioethicsnetwork.org/lit-reviews/medical-informed-consent/

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