



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: P.I.C.C. LINES
APPROVED: DATE 10/87
REVISED DATE: 3/95, 1/99, 4/99,
1/02, 11/03, 5/04, 9/08
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION

PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL CATHETER (PICC) INSERTION, SUTURING, MAINTENANCE, REMOVAL & RADIOGRAPHIC VERIFICATION OF TIP PLACEMENT

It is not within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform fluoroscopy or operate radiographic equipment.

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse to maintain and remove PICC catheters.

It is within the scope of practice for a validated PICC RN to insert, anchor with suturing, and verify tip placement with radiographic techniques, including fluoroscopy, if the following requirements are met:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
 - B. Completion of an instructional program and have supervised clinical practice to insert, secure (which may include suturing) and trouble shoot centrally placed catheters through peripheral sites.
 - C. Advanced PICC techniques for placement of PICC lines may include, but not be limited to, Microseldinger technique, suturing PICC for securement, ultrasound placement, over the wire technique, and tip placement devices.
 - D. Clinical education and competencies for advanced PICC techniques are completed and on file with facility.
 - E. A wire may not extend past the shoulder or past the tip of the catheter for exchange or placement, unless the PICC is placed/repositioned using fluoroscopy.
 - F. A nurse may place a PICC using fluoroscopy guidance for tip placement if the radiology technologist or radiologist/physician operates the fluoroscopy.
 - G. A nurse placing PICCs using fluoroscopy guidance for tip placement is required to complete a course in Radiographic Tip Placement and follow facility policies regarding radiation protection.
 - H. For PICC nurses interpreting radiographic tip placement:
 - a. Completion of an instruction program and have supervised clinical practice by a radiologist to interpret placement and interventions for malpositioned tip placement for age specific patients.
 - b. Documentation of program and clinical practice on file with the employer.
 - I. For nurses maintaining PICCs, including PICC removal:

- a. Written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer/agency.
 - J. An RN may proceed with infusion orders per agency's policy and procedures after preliminary radiographic verification of PICC line tip placement by the PICC RN.
- II. Course of Instruction is to include but not be limited to the following, as applicable to the individual's scope, as designated by the agency/employer:
- A. For nurses performing PICC insertion:
 1. Anatomy and physiology vascular system.
 2. Indications and contraindications for PICC placement
 3. PICC/Midline insertion, including patient preparation, sterile technique, set up, insertion procedure, catheter maintenance and removal.
 4. Insertion-related and post-insertion related complications and management.
 5. Nursing responsibilities.
 - B. For nurses performing radiographic assessment of PICC line catheter tip location:
 1. Anatomy and physiology of vascular system
 2. Radiographic landmarks and techniques
 3. Abnormal anatomy and techniques for catheter positioning/interpretation
 4. Malpositioned PICCs and management
 5. Nursing responsibilities

RATIONALE:

The expertise of the nurse educated to insert and maintain PICC lines is consistent with current state of practice as outlined by the Infusion Nurse's Society, the Association of Vascular Access, and the Infusion Nurse Standards of Practice. The expertise and education required for radiographic tip placement interpreting x-rays and using fluoroscopy for positioning and repositioning PICC lines is consistent with the American College Radiology position statement as to ensure safe practice and continuity of care for patients.

REFERENCES:

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Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice (2006), *Journal of Infusion Nursing*, 29 (1S), Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

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