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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: NEW - CENTRAL LINE
INSERTION BY RN
APPROVED: x
DATE: 11/09
REVISED DATE: xx/xx
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION CENTRAL LINE INSERTION BY REGISTERED NURSES

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to insert a central line if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Qualified physician or LIP in the facility for complication management.
- B. A written policy and procedure to include competency, scope, and supervision requirements is maintained by the employer/facility.
- C. Completion of an instruction program including:
 - Advanced vascular access/insertion including Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) insertions
 - Ultrasound technology for vascular access and central line insertion
 - Supervised clinical practice in ultrasound guided central line insertion
 - Securement, which may include suturing
 - Management of central lines
- D. Documentation of education, proctored clinical practice, and validation in vascular access ultrasound technology is on file with employer/facility.
- E. Vascular access experience.
- F. Central lines are placed using ultrasound technology.
- G. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course completion for age specific population.
- H. If interpreting x-ray for tip placement has completed an instructional program and has supervised clinical practice by a qualified LIP to interpret placement and interventions for mal-positioned tip, as recommended by PICC advisory opinion.
- I. If placing femoral catheters, education and validation to include insertion, maintenance, complications, removal of femoral sheaths.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION to include, but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the vasculature and adjacent structures of the neck, chest, femoral artery, veins, nerves and groin area structures.
- B. Indications and contraindications
- C. Sterile technique

- D. Maximum barrier precautions
- E. Insertion and maintenance techniques
- F. Ultrasound assessment and techniques for venous access
- G. Anchoring/suturing
- H. Potential complications, unexpected outcomes and management including femoral sheath removal
- I. Nursing responsibilities

III. RATIONALE

Due to growth within the field of vascular access a need has arisen for further expansion of the RN scope of practice. Complex therapies, as well as changes in patient population have resulted in RN's assessing vascular access and inserting catheters with increased frequency and well documented positive results. RN's are increasingly asked to place catheters in patients who, due to medical conditions, are no longer candidates for conventional PICC placement.

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