



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: Scope of Practice for Licensed
Practical Nurses in Chronic Dialysis in an
Outpatient Facility**
DATE APPROVED: 07/02
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ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES IN CHRONIC DIALYSIS IN AN OUTPATIENT FACILITY

HEMODIALYSIS

It is within the scope of practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to perform chronic hemodialysis in an outpatient facility in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Function under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN), trained in dialysis, physically present in the facility, and responsible for the supervision of the LPN at all times.
2. Documented certification and demonstrated proficiency in the performance of intravenous therapy.
3. Documented successful completion of instructional program of study and supervised clinical practice to include the following procedures:
 - a. Participation in observation of clients to include:
 - (1) inspection and evaluation of the access site,
 - (2) monitoring and recording of dialysis treatment,
 - (3) observes changes in the client's status,
 - (4) reports findings to RN, and,
 - (5) adjusts dialysis treatment according to client's needs at the direction of physician or registered nurse.
 - b. Initiation of dialysis via duo-lumen catheter and/or cannulation of access device.
 - c. Initiation of dialysis treatments (connection of dialysis tubing to the access device and administration of normal saline).
 - d. Administration of a local anesthetic for the purpose of providing patient comfort while initiating dialysis at the access site.
 - e. Drawing up and injecting heparin doses associated with routine dialysis treatment only.
 - f. Flushing of central venous ports and alterations of fluid rates.
 - g. Discontinuing dialysis treatment (includes administration of normal saline and discontinuing the cannulation).
 - h. Collection of blood samples and site cultures.
 - i. Reinforcement of nutrition and medical information.

PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

It is not within the scope of practice for an LPN to mix and prepare antibiotics for peritoneal dialysis. It is within the scope of practice to infuse and monitor intraperitoneal antibiotics

RATIONALE

To provide (1) guidelines for practice changes related to the Licensed Practical Nurse working in the dialysis outpatient facility and, (2) protection of the public.

REFERENCES

American Nephrology Nurses Association, Position Statement of Delegation of Nursing Tasks (Nov., 2000)

Mississippi Board of Nursing, Position Statement on the Nurse's Role in Hemodialysis (2002)

Nebraska Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion: Delegation within the Dialysis Unit (May, 2000)

South Carolina Board of Nursing, Advisory Opinion #33 (1998)

Ohio Board of Nursing, Momentum, Spring 2000