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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: DEBRIDEMENT, SHARP
WOUND**
APPROVED: X
DATE: 5/93
REVISED DATE: 1/95, 11/01, 1/02, 1/06, 8/09
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION DEBRIDEMENT, CONSERVATIVE SHARP WOUND

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform conservative sharp wound debridement of necrotic tissue if the following requirements are met.

General Requirements

- a. Written policy and procedure are maintained by the agency/employer.
- b. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program with supervised clinical practice from an accredited Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Program (ETNEP), wound management specialty course, or a CE-approved course in debridement are allowed to perform sharp wound debridement.
- c. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and demonstrated clinical proficiency are on file with the agency/employer.

Course of instruction is to include:

- a. Anatomy/physiology of the integumentary system and the functional relationship of structures such as tendons, nerves and blood vessels.
- b. Indications/Contraindications.
- c. Principles of Wound Healing and Management.
- d. Potential complications and adverse reactions.
- e. Technique of sharp wound debridement and return demonstration.
- f. Nursing Care Responsibilities.

RATIONALE:

Conservative sharp wound debridement is defined as the removal of loose avascular tissue without pain or bleeding. The indication for conservative sharp wound debridement is the presence of loose necrotic tissue in a dermal ulcer. RNs with documented education and demonstrated proficiency in conservative sharp wound debridement can perform safe care for patients with full thickness wounds with necrotic tissue needing specialized wound care.

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