



Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 North 7th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888
E-Mail: arizona@azbn.gov
Home Page: <http://www.azbn.gov>

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: Electrophysiology Related
Procedures by RNs
DATE APPROVED: 9/21/05
REVISED DATE: 9/08
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
Scope of Practice

ADVISORY OPINION ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY RELATED PROCEDURES BY REGISTERED NURSES

It is within the scope of a Registered Nurse (RN), in the immediate presence of qualified physician, to insert cardiac catheters including central arterial/venous access catheters, perform cardiac catheter manipulation and services that support electrophysiology studies and ablation procedures if the following requirements are met.

It is not within the scope of a Registered Nurse to engage the coronary arteries.

In no event should a Registered Nurse be expected to replace or assume the responsibilities of the physician performing the given procedure.

I. General Requirements

A. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.

B. Documentation is on file of the RN satisfactorily completing:

1. An EKG course which includes 12 lead interpretations.
2. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
3. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) if studies are conducted on children.
4. An introductory course in perioperative nursing.
5. Pharmacology instruction with cardiac drug emphasis.
6. Instructional program on intra-cardio echocardiogram.
7. At least two years prior experience as a nurse in a critical care cardiac/telemetry unit.
8. An instructional program in electrophysiology which includes 30 ablation procedures with supervised clinical practice.

II. Course of instruction on electrophysiology procedures is to include but not limited to:

A. Anatomy and physiology related to the vascular system/cardiac system.

- B. Insertion techniques specific to insertion devices.
 - C. Potential complications and management techniques.
 - D. Nursing care responsibilities.
- III. At the end of three years, it is recommended that a Registered Nurse will hold national certification in Electrophysiology.
- IV. Assists in performing at least 30 ablation procedures per year.

Rationale:

It is recognized that an RN who has satisfactorily completed an instructional program/supervised clinical practice in specific electrophysiology studies, and has met the general requirements, can safely provide care to patients undergoing electrophysiology studies. Such care includes but is not limited to assessing patients, providing patient and family education. The RN may manipulate cardiac catheters, and assist physicians in procedures such as pacemaker placement, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillators (AICD), angiograms, ablations, and other electrophysiology studies, when the qualified physician is in the immediate presence and directly supervising the nurse.

References:

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE), Standards of Professional Practice for the Allied Professional in Pacing and Electrophysiology, January 2003

NASPE position statement, NASPE policy statement of catheter ablation: Personnel, policy, procedures, and therapeutic recommendations, March 2003

ACC / SCA&I Expert Consensus Document on Catheter Lab Standards, Bayshore et al, June 15, 2001, pages 2194-2196

Kentucky State Board of Nursing. (2005). Role of Registered Nurses in Invasive Cardiac Procedures. Advisory Opinion Statement, Retrieved August 25th, 2008, from kbn.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D7D77840-AEEB-45F6-8FF-C442D350E1D5/0/aos20.pdf on August 25th, 2008

Tracy, C. M. & ET. Al. (2006). American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association 2006 Update of the Clinical Competence Statement on Invasive Electrophysiology Studies, Catheter Ablation, and Cardio version. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, vol. 48, no. 7. Retrieved from www.hrsonline.org/Policy/ClinicalGuidelines/upload/EPCathAb1%20FINAL%200906.pdf on August 25th, 2008