



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: INTUBATION,
ENDOTRACHEAL, ESOPHAGEAL
GASTRIC AIRWAY, ESOPHAGEAL
OBTURATOR AIRWAY
APPROVED DATE: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 6/00; 12; 02, 3/03, 7/07
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

ADVISORY OPINION

INTUBATION: ENDOTRACHEAL, ESOPHAGEAL OBTURATOR AIRWAY, LARYNGEAL MASK AIRWAY: THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to insert an endotracheal tube, esophageal obturator airway, or laryngeal mask airway in an emergency, if the following requirements are met:

I. General Requirements

- A. The nurse has satisfactorily completed a nationally recognized course such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).
- B. The employer maintains a written policy which allows the nurse to perform the procedure and specifies a method for education and a minimum of annual re-demonstration of the skill.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the agency's instructional program and demonstrated clinical proficiency is on file with the employer.

II. Course of Instruction is to Include:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the pulmonary system, including the upper airway.
- B. Indications for intubation, preparing the patient, equipment set-up and maintenance.
- C. Safety measures and management of complications and unexpected outcomes.
- D. Indications and contraindications for choosing the proper airway for various patient populations and problems.
- E. Verification procedures to ensure proper placement of the airway.
- F. Nursing responsibilities of the intubated patient.

RATIONALE:

Intubation can be performed by Registered Nurses with additional knowledge and skills who have demonstrated competency per professional licensure and institutional standards.

REFERENCE:

Lynne-McHale Wiegand, D.J. and Carlson, K. K., American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Procedure Manual for Critical Care, 5th Edition, 2005, Saunders Elsevier, Inc., St. Louis, pp. 1-20, 42-52.