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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
APPROVED: X
DATE: 03/10
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION LAPAROSCOPIC ADJUSTABLE GASTRIC BAND (LAGB) FILL

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse to perform laparoscopic gastric band adjustments following assessment and fill determination by a physician/LIP that specializes in bariatric surgery.

The following requirements must be met before an RN may fill or remove saline solution from a gastric lap band:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- B. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and have demonstrated competency on file.
- C. A physician/LIP that specializes in bariatric surgery has personally examined the patient and determined the amount of solution to add or subtract from the band prior to the nurse performing this procedure. If the patient is having untoward symptoms related to a gastric band, the trained RN may deflate the band after an evaluation and order from a physician/LIP.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the digestive system.
- B. Procedural instructional program for the specific Gastric Lap Band used.
- C. Complications and management of potential side effects including but not limited to stomach prolapse, obstruction, leaks, kinks, port site infections and erosion.
- D. Techniques for instilling or removing fluid from the port.
- E. Infection control measures and safety precautions.

III. RATIONALE

The guiding principle for this opinion is that the band adjustment after gastric surgery has a great impact on the success for weight loss after a laparoscopic gastric banding and it is

recognized that filling or removing fluid from a silicone reservoir can be safely performed by a registered nurse with specialized training, skills, ongoing training, and knowledge under the supervision of a properly trained licensed care provider.

IV. REFERENCES

The Art of Adjustments with the LAP-BAND AP™ System, Allergan Web site.
www.lapbandcentral.com . Updated 2007, accessed December 2, 2009