



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: LUMBAR PUNCTURE
DATE APPROVED: 5/88
REVISED DATE: 10/96, 07/02, 3/06, 11/09
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION LUMBAR PUNCTURE

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform lumbar punctures if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer/agency.
- B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice are allowed to perform lumbar punctures.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised practice is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the spinal cord and meninges
- B. Indications and contraindications
- C. Potential adverse reactions
- D. Techniques of lumbar puncture
- E. Nursing care responsibilities
- F. Appropriate management of comfort/pain/sedation
- G. Any associated pharmacology
- H. Documentation requirements

III. RATIONALE

This procedure should only be performed by physicians, advanced practice nurses, and RN's with additional knowledge, skills, and demonstrated competence.

IV. REFERENCES

American Association of Critical Care Nurses. (2005). *American Association of Critical Care Nurses Procedure Manual for Critical Care*. (5th Ed.) (pp. 800-805). Columbus, Ohio: The McGraw-Hill Companies