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OPINION:
APPROVED:
DATE: 09/08
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ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION MANIPULATION OF ENDOSCOPES BY REGISTERED NURSES

It is within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to manipulate endoscopes provided the following criteria are met:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. The registered nurse manipulating the endoscope is under the direct supervision of a licensed independent practitioner (LIP) who is licensed to order and perform endoscopies.
 - B. The registered nurse is able to provide assistance to the LIP by manipulating the endoscope during an endoscope procedure. The nurse is not expected to replace or assume the duties of the licensed provider performing the endoscope procedure.
 - C. Registered nurses manipulating endoscopes should maintain documentation of current clinical competency.
 - D. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the employer.
 - E. Only registered nurses who have satisfactorily completed the employers' instructional program and have supervised clinical practice are allowed to manipulate the endoscope equipment.
 - F. The training for the nurse should include knowledge of the techniques of endoscope manipulation and possible complications associated with endoscope procedures.
 - G. The nurse should be trained in interventions for complications of endoscope procedures and will initiate appropriate interventions with the direction of the LIP performing the endoscope procedure.
 - H. The nurse monitoring the patient may not be the nurse manipulating the endoscope equipment.
- II. Definitions
 - A. Manipulation is the act of advancing or withdrawing the endoscope under the direct supervision of the LIP performing the endoscope procedure.

Rationale:

“Extra pair of hands” A nurse following the guidance of a LIP that is performing direct supervision of the nurse and is not expanding their scope of practice. The nurse is acting as an extra pair of hands and is not acting independently or making determinations.

Registered nurses are able to safely manipulate endoscopes as in current practice, recent research and publications. Appropriate training and knowledge are essential to safe action and manipulation of endoscopes.

References:

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Kentucky Board of Nursing. (2005, February). Roles of nurses and unlicensed personnel in endoscopic procedures.

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2006, September). Position statement: manipulation of endoscopes during endoscopic procedures.