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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: REGISTERED NURSE

FIRST ASSISTANT

APPROVED: 10/87

REVISED DATE: 5/93, 7/95, 1/02, 7/04, 7/07

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADVISORY OPINION REGISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSISTANT – RNFA

It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA), who can demonstrate the necessary education, knowledge, judgment, and skills, to act as an RNFA to the physician during surgical procedures. The RNFA practices at the direction of that physician.

The Board of Nursing endorses the 2004 AORN official statement on RNFAs

I. General Requirements

- A. The RNFA is not authorized to perform a surgical procedure, which is the primary purpose of the surgery, or to perform organ transplants.
- B. The RNFA will comply with the policies as delineated by the employer/facility and meet the requirements of the credentialing review committee (if any).
- C. The RNFA shall assist the physician in the performance of surgery and shall function as an RNFA only if the physician is immediately available in the practice setting during the entire course of the operative procedure.

References

Revised AORN Official Statement on RNFA

Proposed Revision to AORN Board of Directors in November 2003

Ratified: March 2004

House of Delegates, San Diego, California

Sunset review: March 2009