



## 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: VISUAL SCLEROTHERAPY**  
**APPROVED: X**  
**DATE: 9/91**  
**REVISED DATE: 7/95, 4/02, 1/06**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

### ADVISORY OPINION VISUAL SCLEROTHERAPY

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse to perform sclerotherapy on appropriate spider veins and varicose veins if the following requirements are met: The RN is under the direction/order of a qualified provider who has expertise in sclerotherapy, and an assessment by a qualified provider, and appropriate diagnostic measures have been completed

#### I. General Requirements

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer/agency.
- B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed a formal instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice are allowed to perform sclerotherapy.
- C. Satisfactory completion of the instructional program and clinical requirements, as well as documented clinical proficiency is on file with the employer/agency.

#### II. Course of Instruction is to include but is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy, physiology, and terminology of the circulatory system including differentiation of the vessels appropriate for sclerotherapy.
- B. Pathophysiology and alteration of the venous system function.
- C. Indications and contraindications for treatment.
- D. Complications and management of potential side effects or adverse reactions of treatment and administered agents.
- E. Pharmacology of Sclerosing agents.
- F. Techniques of vein sclerotherapy, proper selection and utilization of equipment.
- G. Infection control measures.
- H. Nursing care responsibilities to include, but not limited to
  - a. Case management of patients.
  - b. Patient teaching pre and post-procedure.
  - c. Dressings and wound care.
  - d. Patient monitoring.

#### **RATIONALE:**

The guiding principle for this opinion is that it is recognized sclerotherapy can be safely administered by a registered nurse under the direction of a qualified provider and with specialized training, skills, and knowledge.

**REFERENCES:** (Not all inclusive)

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- Campbell, B., Dimson, S., & Bickerton, D. (1998). Which treatment would patients prefer for their varicose veins? Ann. R. Coll. Surg. Engl. 80 (3), 212-214.
- Green, D. (1998) Sclerotherapy for the permanent eradication of varicose vein: theoretical and practical considerations. J. Am. Acad. Dermatol. 38 (3), 461-471.
- Goldman, Mitchel P. (2002) 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Sclerotherapy: Treatment of varicose and telangiectatic leg veins. Deciding who will deliver patient care. Page 343.

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