



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: SIGMOIDOSCOPY
FLEXIBLE SCREENING**
APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:
DATE: 1/90
REVISED DATE: 3/95; 11/02
REVIEWED: 3/06
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

ADVISORY OPINION SIGMOIDOSCOPY: FLEXIBLE SCREENING

It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse to perform flexible sigmoidoscopy for screening purposes, not diagnostic, if the following requirements are met:

- I. General Requirements
 - A. A written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
 - B. Only Registered Nurses who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice are allowed to perform flexible sigmoidoscopy for screening purposes.
 - C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction and supervised practice is on file with the employer.
- II. Course of Instruction is to Include but not be limited to:
 - A. Anatomy and physiology of the colon and abdomen.
 - B. Indications and contraindications.
 - C. Potential adverse reactions.
 - D. Manipulation of the sigmoidoscope.
 - E. Distinguishing between normal and abnormal findings and referring to appropriate physician.
 - F. Nursing care responsibilities.

Rationale:

Safety and accuracy of the routine flexible sigmoidoscopy screening by registered nurses is supported in current research and practice publications.

References:

Position statement of the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates. Performance of Flexible Sigmoidoscopy by Registered Nurses for Colorectal Screening (Revised 1999)
<http://www.sgna.org/resources/statement6.cfm>

Schoenfeld, P., Cash, B., Kita, J., Piorkowski, M., Cruess, D., & Ransahoff, D., (1999). Effectiveness and patient satisfaction with screening flexible sigmoidoscopy performed by registered nurses. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 49, 158-161.

Speigal, T. (1995) Flexible sigmoidoscopy training for nurses. *Gastroenterology Nursing*, 18, 206-209

Wright, K. (2000). An explorative descriptive study of the GI nurse endoscopy role in the United States, in review. *Gastroenterology Nursing* 23, 78-82.