



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: STRESS TESTING:
PHARMACOLOGICAL
DATE APPROVED: 7/95, 5/04
REVISED DATE: 7/02, 3/03, 5/04, 1/09, 3/12
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION STRESS TESTING: PHARMACOLOGICAL

It is within the Scope of Practice for the Registered Nurse to administer medications for the purpose of pharmacological cardiac stress testing for patients unable to undergo physical stress testing.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. These pharmacological cardiac stress medications are administered under authorized licensed independent (LIP) health care provider orders and according to healthcare setting policies and procedures
 1. General requirements for pharmacological cardiac stress medication administration by registered nurses.
 2. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer to include administration of the pharmacological stress testing and related medications as needed to provide a safe patient outcome.
- B. A licensed independent practitioner (LIP) is required to be present, as defined by facility policy, when pharmacological stress testing medications are being delivered.
- C. Required equipment: Equipment & medications as required performing advanced life support.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Course of instruction for the RN is to include, but not limited to:
 1. Anatomy and physiology of the cardiac system ECG interpretation and potential intervention.
 2. An understanding of pharmacology as it relates to pharmacology of stress testing.
 3. Current Basic Life Support.
 4. Current Advanced Life Support (Age specific)
 5. EKG interpretation

III. RATIONALE

While intravenous pharmacological stress medications are within the scope of practice of the RN, the inherent risk of cardiac stressing requires special preparation, training, and supervision of a properly credentialed prescriber.

IV. REFERENCES

American Society of Nuclear Cardiologists (2009) American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Imaging for Nuclear Cardiology Procedures

Coats, N., & Baranyay, J., (2011) The Central Role of the Nurse in Process Improvement Relating to Pharmacologic Stress Testing *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*

Gilman, G., Nelson, J. M., Murphy, A. T., Kidd, G. M., Stussy, V. L., & Klarich, K. W. (2005, July). The Role of the Nurse in Clinical Echocardiography. *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography*, July 2005 31(7), 773-777.

Hendel, R., Berman, D., Di Carli, M., Heidenreich, P., Henkin, R., Pellikka, P., Pohost, G., & Williams, K., (2009) Appropriate Guidelines for use of Cardiac Radionuclide Imaging *American College of Cardiology*, June 2009 53 2201-2229.