

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: SUTURE/STAPLE REMOVAL-ROLE OF LPN

APPROVED DATE: 3/22/06

REVISED DATE: 11/09, 1/10

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION SUTURE/STAPLE REMOVAL – ROLE OF LPN

It is within the Scope of Practice for the licensed practical nurse (LPN) to remove sutures/staples if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. The task is delegated to the LPN by an RN/LIP.
- B. The LPN has demonstrated clinical competency in suture/staple removal.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION includes but is not limited to:

- A. Inspection of wound site
- B. Performing suture/staple removal – indications of change in wound (pre & post removal)
- C. Reporting of findings to RN/LPN
- D. Pain and comfort measures

III. RATIONALE

To provide guidelines for LPN practice relating to suture/staple removal.

IV. REFERENCES

Autio, L., and Koozer-Olsen, K.: “The Four S’s of Wound Management: Staples, Sutures, Steri-Strips and Sticky Stuff.” *Holistic Nursing Practice*. 16(2):80-88, January 2002.

Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registrations. Board of Nursing. (2009). Personal Communication 6/12/09.

Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners. (2009). Personal communication 6/15/09.