



## **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: SUPERVISION OF LPN  
BY PROFESSIONAL NURSES**  
**APPROVED DATE: 12/87**  
**REVISED DATE: 10/96, 2/01, 3/01, 12/02,  
3/03, 1/07**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:  
LEGAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **ADVISORY OPINION SUPERVISION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE BY REGISTERED NURSES**

R4-19-101 "Supervision" means the direction, and periodic consultation, provided to an individual to whom a nursing task or patient care activity is delegated.

The Registered Nurse (RN) is responsible and accountable for the determination of the type of supervision required of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for those functions that can be legally performed by the LPN. The LPN is responsible to perform within the LPN scope of practice as defined by ARS 32-1601 (12).

When, in the judgment of the RN, the client's state is unstable/unpredictable and rapid change may be anticipated, supervision of the LPN is achieved when the RN is physically present and is able to readily intervene in the care of the client. When, in the judgment of the RN, the client's state is stable/predictable and rapid change is not anticipated, supervision of the LPN may be achieved without the physical presence of the RN or Physician. In this instance, the RN or Physician must be readily available by telephone/beeper. This does not preclude the fact that the RN is responsible for monitoring the care of all clients. The functions that can be legally performed by the LPN under the supervision of a physician or a RN in accordance with ARS 32-1601 (12) include:

- a) Contributing to the assessment of the health status of individuals and groups.
- b) Participating in the development and modification of the strategy of care.
- c) Implementing aspects of the strategy of care within the nurse's scope of practice.
- d) Maintaining safe and effective nursing care that is rendered directly or indirectly.
- e) Participating in the evaluation of responses to interventions.
- f) Delegating nursing activities within the scope of practice of a practical nurse.
- g) Performing additional acts that require education and training as prescribed by the Board and that are recognized by the nursing profession as proper to be performed by a practical nurse.

#### **RATIONALE:**

To clarify the supervision requirements between RN and LPN.

#### **REFERENCE:**

Arizona Nurse Practice Act: ARS 32-1601 (12) (13)

Arizona Nurse Practice Act: R4-19-101