ADVISORY OPINION
BLOOD CELL SALVAGE: THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE

STATEMENT OF SCOPE
It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to operate blood cell salvage devices if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
   A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer/agency.
   B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice may operate cell salvage devices.
   C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer
   D. Auto-transfusion can be performed by the RN with the order of the physician.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION
   A. Anatomy and physiology of the vascular system and hematology.
   B. Indications and contraindications for cell salvage.
   C. Potential adverse reactions
   D. How differing collection sites affect the shed blood collected
   E. Aseptic technique and infection control guidelines
   F. Nursing care responsibilities
   G. Utilization of sterile equipment
   H. Appropriate patient identification and documentation requirements.

III. RATIONALE
To ensure consistency and competency in operating blood cell salvage devices.
REFERENCES


Innerhofer, P. et al, "Risk for post-operative infection after filtered allogeneic or autologous blood components in orthopedic patients undergoing primary arthroplasty," *Transfusion* 45 (January 2005) 103110.


Denholm, B., AORN Perioperative Nursing Specialist, personal communication February 12, 2014. "The Association of Operating Room Nurses does not see a need to alter the current advisory opinion regarding the RN role in blood cell salvage." 1-800-755-2676, ext 261, bdenholm@aorn.org.