It is within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) in the critical care setting, to remove Pulmonary Artery catheters if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
   A. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice and performance-based competency assessment are allowed to remove pulmonary artery catheters.
   B. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
   C. Current certification appropriate to the patient population such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation Program or a substantially equivalent educational program appropriate to the age of the patient.
   D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction program and documented clinical proficiency is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION should include:
   A. Anatomy and physiology of the central circulatory system.
   B. Indications and contraindications for removal.
   C. Potential complications of removal such as, but not limited to air embolism, pacemaker wire interference, knotted line.
   D. Technique for safe removal of the device.
   E. Nursing care responsibilities related to post removal assessment and site care.

III. RATIONALE
    Pulmonary artery catheters can be safely removed by a RN who has completed an instructional program and has had supervised clinical practice.

IV. REFERENCE