



## Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655  
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888  
E-Mail: [arizona@azbn.gov](mailto:arizona@azbn.gov)  
Home Page: [www.azbn.gov](http://www.azbn.gov)

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: PULMONARY ARTERY  
CATHETER REMOVAL**  
**APPROVED: 1/90**  
**REVISED DATE: 1/02, 1/06, 8/09, 9/12**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice  RN  LPN

### **ADVISORY OPINION PULMONARY ARTERY (PA) CATHETER REMOVAL**

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**

Lynne-McHale, Wiegand, D.J. (2011). *American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Procedure Manual for Critical Care*, (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) Saunders Elsevier, inc., pp. 648-654.

Bridges, E. (2009). AACN practice alert pulmonary artery/central venous pressure measurement. *American Association of Critical Care Nurses*.