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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: SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION
DATE APPROVED: 01/09
REVISED DATE: 09/12
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN X LPN

ADVISORY OPINION SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to provide fluids and medications via subcutaneous infusion if the requirements below are met. It is not within the Scope of Practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to provide subcutaneous infusions of immunoglobulin's or chemotherapy.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures of employer will designate ~~ing~~ what drugs may be given by the nurse via subcutaneous infusion and all procedures related to administration and maintenance.
- B. Completion of an instructional programs and supervised clinical practice for administering subcutaneous infusions including use of pump, tubing, needle/catheter, site preparation/changes and dressings.
- C. The Licensed Practical Nurse has satisfactorily completed an instructional program or equivalent as outlined in ADVISORY OPINION INTRAVENOUS INFUSION THERAPY / VENIPUNCTURE: THE ROLE OF THE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE. Refer to this advisory opinion for required instructional program & medications administered subcutaneously by an LPN.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to subcutaneous infusion.
- B. Insertion techniques specific to subcutaneous infusion. Generally the subcutaneous access device is placed in the abdomen, upper arm, or thigh in the subcutaneous tissue.
- C. Complications and management techniques to include potential adverse reactions: inflammation of the site, occluded tubing, lack of absorption, fluid overload, extravasations, bacteremia, and thrombosis.
- D. Nursing responsibilities: patient education; preparing/monitoring the infusion; insertion of devices and sites changes, monitoring for complications.

III. RATIONALE

Medication administration via subcutaneous route can be safely administered by nurses if general requirements and course of instruction are met.

IV. REFERENCES

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