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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: ANESTHESIA EPIDURAL
APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:
DATE: 1/87
REVISED DATE: 1/97, 6/99
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
EXTENDED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION ANESTHESIA EPIDURAL

It is **not** within the scope of practice for RN's or LPN's to administer medications for the purpose of providing an epidural anesthetic.

A licensed Registered Nurse may administer epidural anesthetics under the direction of and in the presence of a licensed physician or surgeon if the nurse has completed a nationally accredited program in the science of anesthesia (Nurse Anesthetist).

“Presence” means within the same room or an adjoining room or within the same surgical or obstetrical suite (see A.R.S. § 32-1661 (A) (B)).