



## Arizona State Board of Nursing

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**OPINION:** Electrophysiology Related  
Procedures by RNs  
**DATE APPROVED:** 9/21/05  
**REVISED DATE:** 9/08, 9/11  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Within the Scope of Practice  X  RN   LPN

### ADVISORY OPINION CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY RELATED PROCEDURES BY REGISTERED NURSES

It is within the scope of a Registered Nurse to access/engage/or manipulate the catheter within the coronary artery.

In no event should a Registered Nurse be expected to replace or assume the responsibilities of the qualified LIP performing the given procedure.

It is within the scope of a Registered Nurse (RN), in the immediate presence of qualified Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP), to assist with the following procedures: (a) the insertion of cardiac catheters including central arterial/venous access catheters, (b) cardiac catheter manipulation and services that support electrophysiology studies, and (c) ablation procedures. Assisting with these procedures can only be accomplished when the LIP is present but unable to perform those functions. In this role, the nurse is acting as the "extra pair of hands\*."

#### I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. Documentation is on file of the RN satisfactorily completing:
  1. An EKG course which includes 12 lead interpretations.
  2. Current certification\_Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
  3. Current certification\_Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) if studies are conducted on children.
  4. Concepts in perioperative nursing, including sterile technique.
  5. Pharmacology instruction with cardiac drug emphasis.
  6. Instructional program on intra-cardio echocardiogram.
  7. An instructional program in electrophysiology which includes participating in ablation procedures with supervised clinical practice.

\*Extra pair of hands as defined as a nurse is following the guidance of a LIP that is performing direct supervision of the nurse and is not expanding their scope of practice. The nurse is acting as an extra pair of hands and is not acting independently or making determinations.

**II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION** on electrophysiology procedures is to include but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to the vascular system/cardiac system.
- B. Insertion techniques specific to insertion devices.
- C. Potential complications and management techniques.
- D. Nursing care responsibilities.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Upon attaining 3 years of clinical experience, it is recommended that a Registered Nurse will seek national certification in Electrophysiology such as through International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE).

**III. RATIONALE**

It is recognized that an RN who has satisfactorily completed an instructional program/supervised clinical practice in specific electrophysiology studies, and has met the general requirements, can safely provide care to patients undergoing electrophysiology studies. Such care includes but is not limited to assessing patients and providing patient and family education. The RN may manipulate cardiac catheters, and assist physicians in procedures such as pacemaker placement, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillators (AICD), angiograms, ablations, and other electrophysiology studies, when the qualified LIP is in the immediate presence and directly supervising the nurse.

**IV. REFERENCES**

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Nebraska Board of Nursing. (n.d.). *Position document: Extra-Pair of Hands Concept*. Retrieved, from <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/ExtraPairofHands.pdf>

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE). (2003). *Standards of professional practice for the allied professional in pacing and electrophysiology*, Retrieved from [file:///C:/Users/Nancy/Downloads/2003-NASPE%20Allied%20Professional%20Statement%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Nancy/Downloads/2003-NASPE%20Allied%20Professional%20Statement%20(1).pdf)

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