



Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 North 7th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888
E-Mail: arizona@azbn.gov
Home Page: 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: Scope of Practice for Licensed
Practical Nurses in Chronic Dialysis in an
Outpatient Facility**

DATE APPROVED: 07/02, 1/10

REVISED DATE: 1/06

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN X LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

CHRONIC DIALYSIS IN AN OUTPATIENT FACILITY: The Role of an LPN

HEMODIALYSIS

It is within the scope of practice of a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to perform chronic hemodialysis in an outpatient facility if the following requirements, instructions, and exceptions are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Function under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN), trained in dialysis, physically present in the facility, and responsible for the supervision of the LPN at all times.
- B. Documented certification and demonstrated proficiency in the performance of intravenous therapy.
- C. Documented successful completion of instructional program of study and supervised clinical practice to include the following procedures:
 - i. Participation in observation of clients to include:
 1. inspection and evaluation of the access site,
 2. monitoring and recording of dialysis treatment,
 3. observes changes in the client's status,
 4. reports findings to RN, and,
 5. adjusts dialysis treatment according to client's needs at the direction of physician or registered nurse.
 - ii. Initiation of dialysis via duo-lumen catheter and/or cannulation of access device.
 - iii. Initiation of dialysis treatments (connection of dialysis tubing to the access device and administration of normal saline).
 - iv. Administration of a local anesthetic for the purpose of providing patient comfort while initiating dialysis at the access site.
 - v. Drawing up and injecting heparin doses associated with routine dialysis treatment only.
 - vi. Flushing of central venous ports and alterations of fluid rates.
 - vii. Discontinuing dialysis treatment (includes administration of normal saline and discontinuing the cannulation).
 - viii. Collection of blood samples and site cultures.
 - ix. Reinforcement of nutrition and medical information.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION to include Dialysis training and orientation that reflects the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) standards of clinical practice and in compliance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations, including but not limited to:

- a. Anatomy and physiology of the renal system.
- b. Principles of water treatment.
- c. Dialyzer reprocessing.
- d. Basics of Nutrition in renal failure.
- e. Understanding of ethical issues impacting on nephrology practice.
- f. Communication and interpersonal skills.
- g. Standard Precautions, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control.
- h. Concepts and principles of hemodialysis.
- i. Arteriovenous puncture for dialysis access techniques.
- j. Use of Heparin in dialysis procedures.
- k. Use of isotonic saline in dialysis
- l. Maintenance of the delivery system; integrity of extracorporeal circuit, pressure monitor readings,
- m. Anticoagulant delivery, blood flow rate, alarm limits and/or conditions.
- n. Observation and reports of complications to the registered nurse.
- o. Post-treatment access care guidelines.
- p. Disposal of supplies in compliance with Standard Precautions.
 - 1) Agency policy regarding terminal cleaning of equipment and treatment area.

In addition to education, the LPN would also complete the following education:

- A. Central Dialysis Venous Catheters:
 - Types of central venous catheters
 - Initiating Dialysis with a catheter
 - Secure the catheter connectors
 - Draw pre-dialysis blood samples
 - Initiate dialysis
 - Discontinue dialysis
 - Teach patient catheter care
- B. Dialysis-Related Complications of Catheters
 - Catheter dislodgement or removal
 - Air embolism
 - Infiltration/hematoma
 - Bleeding during hemodialysis
 - Recirculation
- C. Long-Term Complications of Catheters
 - Central Venous Stenosis

PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

It is not within the scope of practice for an LPN to mix and prepare antibiotics for peritoneal dialysis. It is within the scope of practice to infuse and monitor intraperitoneal antibiotics

III. RATIONALE

As the population ages the number of patients requiring chronic dialysis care in the outpatient setting increases. In order to provide appropriate and timely care to these patients nursing staff must have the ability to function in this outpatient setting. Nursing staff must have competency to function within this environment.

IV. REFERENCES

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