



Arizona State Board of Nursing

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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: DUAL PROFESSION & DUAL
HEALTH CARE LICENSURE/
CERTIFICATION**
DATE APPROVED: 5/91
**REVISED DATE: 7/95, 11/95, 7/97, 10/99, 1/02,
9/05, 1/09, 3/12, 3/16**
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN X LPN

ADVISORY OPINION DUAL PROFESSION & DUAL HEALTH CARE LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

The Scope of Practice for the Registered Nurse (RN) and the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) is determined by the Arizona Nurse Practice Act. This Advisory Opinion addresses three scenarios: Nurses who hold dual professional licenses or certifications, dual nursing licenses or certifications, or dual health care licensures or certifications.

Dual Professionals:

A registered or practical nurse licensed or certified in another profession, e.g. attorney or license psychologist. The dual currently licensed nurse must at all times adhere to the statutes and rules pertaining to nursing. A nurse may not circumvent discipline for violating the nursing regulations by claiming to have been acting under authority of another license or certificate. The licensee will be held to the standards of practice for their nursing license, regardless of other roles performed in the community.

Dual Nursing Licensure/Certification:

A nurse who holds dual licensure/certification (i.e. RN & LPN licensure). The nurse is accountable to the educational standard of the highest nursing credential held. For example, an RN employed and paid as an LPN remains accountable for the standard of practice of an RN.

Dual Health Care Licensure/Certification:

A registered, practical, or advanced practice registered nurse who has acquired or developed a specialized knowledge base, i.e. complimentary and integrative therapies, or additional health care licensure/certification such as radiologic technologist or respiratory therapist, remains accountable for the educational and patient advocacy standards of their highest level of nursing licensure irrespective of employment statuses.

Clarifying Points:

The Board of Nursing does not regulate employers, other healthcare disciplines, or other professions. If a nurse (RN, LPN, or APRN) who is also licensed or certified as and employed in a different field becomes the subject of a complaint to the Board, the Board will review the complaint in relation to the nurse's highest level of nursing licensure, irrespective of employment.

Example: RN's employed as or who volunteer in the role of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) must comply with the requirements for certification by the Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) but must also maintain standards of practice for an RN.

RATIONALE

The Arizona State Board of Nursing acknowledges that there are times when a nurse may be employed in a role that is different from the highest level of nursing licensure achieved or work in a separate health care discipline for which licensure/certification has been achieved. In this circumstance, the nurse maintains accountability for the standards of practice associated with the highest level of nursing licensure held.

REFERENCES

Arizona Nurse Practice Act, Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 32-1601, 1606, 1632, 1634.03, 1634.04, 1637, 1645, and 1664(B); Arizona Administrative Code Rules 4-19-101, 310, 401, 402, 403 (including 403(10 and 11), 501, 508, 511, 512, 513, 514, 813, 814.

2001 Online Journal of Issues in Nursing, State Boards of Nursing and Scope of Practice of Registered Nurses Performing Complementary Therapies; August 31, 2001

Virginia Board of Nursing Guidance Document #90-4 Service on a Volunteer Rescue Squad, 11/18/03.

California Board of Nursing: Dual Licensure, 2/99.