



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: INTUBATION,
ENDOTRACHEAL, ESOPHAGEAL
GASTRIC AIRWAY, ESOPHAGEAL
OBTURATOR AIRWAY
APPROVED DATE: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 3/03, 7/07,
1/11, 9/14
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION: THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to insert an endotracheal tube if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. The nurse maintains nationally recognized certification specific to the age of the patient, such as Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), or Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
- B. The employer maintains a written policy and procedures.
- C. Completion of an instructional course as outlined below with demonstrated clinical proficiency on file with the employer

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system, pharmacological properties of drugs used, and advanced airway assessment and management.
- B. Indications and contraindications for intubation including but not limited to patient preparation equipment set-up, and maintenance.
- C. Selection of proper airway equipment appropriate for weight and age.
- D. Verification procedures to ensure proper placement of the airway.
- E. Management of potential complications and unexpected outcomes, including the use of advanced airway devices.
- F. Nursing care responsibilities and age specific management of the intubated patient.
- G. Supervised endotracheal intubation clinical practice.

III. RATIONALE

To provide age-appropriate intubation guidelines consistent with current practice in which intubation can be performed by Registered Nurses with additional knowledge and skills who have demonstrated competency per professional licensure and institutional standards. (R-4-19-402C "RN standards of care activities that an individual practitioner is legally permitted to perform within a profession").

IV. REFERENCE

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