



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: EPIDURAL ANALGESIA BY NURSE ANESTHETIST
APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:
DATE: 01/03
REVISED DATE: 5/15
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION EPIDURAL ANALGESIA BY NURSE ANESTHETIST

It is within the scope of practice of a Nurse Anesthetist to provide epidural analgesia without the presence of a physician. If anesthesia is to be administered through the epidural, physician presence is required per A.R.S. § 32-1634.04.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Nurse Anesthetist must meet the educational requirements of A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 (A), completion of a nationally accredited program in the science of anesthesia.

RATIONALE

Nurse Anesthetists are qualified to provide epidural analgesia. There is a clinical distinction between the administration of epidural analgesia and epidural anesthesia. Because A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 requires physician presence during the administration of anesthesia, and not analgesia, physician presence is not required for a Nurse Anesthetist to administer epidural analgesia.

REFERENCES

Qualifications and Capabilities of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 1999.

Scope and Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 1996.

A.R.S. § 32-1634.04