



Doug Ducey
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 N. 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

OPINION: NEW
APPROVED: 1/31/14
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

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.

ADVISORY OPINION

Immunization Administration Using a Nursing Protocol in an Ambulatory Setting

STATEMENT OF SCOPE: It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) and a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to administer specific immunizing agents or vaccines within an ambulatory setting, using nursing protocols; if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. There is an order from the Licensed Independent Provider (LIP) which allows the RN/LPN to initiate the Immunization Protocol(s).
- B. Immunization protocols are written, maintained, and approved by the employer and the appropriate LIP (s) and contain the following elements:
 1. The immunization protocols are written according to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - a. Separate protocols are written for patients who are 18 years of age or older (Adult) and for clients who are under 18 years of age (children/adolescents).
 2. The protocol specifies the contraindications for implementation (e.g. patients or populations of patients for whom the vaccine should not be administered and/or the conditions under which the vaccine should not be administered).
 3. The name of the immunizing agent/vaccine to be administered.
 4. The dose to be administered.
 5. The route or method of administration.
 6. The inclusion/exclusion criteria that the nurse will assess before administering the immunizing agent/vaccine.
 7. The process by which informed consent is obtained for the immunizations to be administered
 8. Documentation in the medical record should follow the CDC requirements as well as local, state, and federal requirements. Documentation of clinical competency regarding the use of this protocol is on file with the employer.
 9. Demonstration of competency in the assessment and management of possible local, systemic or allergic reactions related to immunizing agent or vaccine administration.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

RN/LPN's who utilize immunizing agent/vaccine protocols are expected to possess the knowledge of, and demonstrate competency applying the following into practice:

- A. The process for initiating the immunizing agent/vaccine protocol.
- B. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) adult, adolescent, and child immunizations schedules as appropriate to the population.
- C. Correct dose and injection techniques/sites for each immunizing agent/vaccine according to CDC guidelines.
- D. The allergy screening process including contraindications.
- E. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for each immunizing agent/vaccine included in the protocol(s).
- F. Requirements for informed consent and written consent.
- G. Management of local, systemic, or allergic reactions related to immunizing agent/vaccine.
- H. Documentation requirements.

III. RATIONALE:

Standardized protocols/decision-support tools have been effectively and safely utilized by RNs and LPNs for many years. The use of vaccine protocols/standing orders programs for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines have been supported by the CDC and CMC (Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services) for more than a decade (CMS immunization guidelines, 2012-2013, sections B.17 & B.18). The use of nursing immunization protocols will help to increase the level of herd immunity. Herd immunity occurs when a large percentage of the population is vaccinated, thus limiting the spread of infectious diseases. Having a high herd immunity helps to protect unimmunized individuals, including those who can't be vaccinated and those for whom vaccination wasn't successful (CDC, 2013)

This advisory opinion does not apply to nurses practicing in the acute care setting. However, for Medicare coverage purposes, CMS allows nurses (regardless of setting) to administer influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations without a specific physician's order.

IV. REFERENCES

- CDC Use of standing orders programs to increase adult vaccination rates: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR 2000, 49(No. RR01) 15-26 retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4901a2.htm>
- Immunizers' question & answer guide to Medicare Part B, Medicaid and CHIP coverage of seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations: Steps to promoting wellness. (2012-2013), found at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/Downloads/2012-2013_Flu_Guide.pdf
- CMS adult immunization resources. (2012). Found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/Providerresources.html>
- Minnesota State Board of Nursing (2011), Statutes, 148.235, retrieved from <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=148.235>
- Minnesota Department of Health Vaccine Protocols, retrieved from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immuniza/hcp/protocols/#templates>
- Mississippi State Board of Nursing, FAQs, retrieved from <http://www.msbn.ms.gov/Pages/FAQs.aspx#Immunizations>
- New Mexico State Board of Nursing/Department of Health, Immunization Protocols (2011), retrieved from <http://www.immunizenm.org/Provider/documents/NMIZProtocol2011.pdf>

North Carolina State Board of Nursing Standing Orders, retrieved from
<http://www.ncbon.com/content.aspx?id=682>

North Dakota State Board of Nursing Practice Statements retrieved from
<http://www.ndbon.org/opinions/nsg%20sop-rx%20protocols%20in%20clinic.asp>

Telehealth Nursing Practice Administration and Practice Standards. (2011), Pitman, NJ: AACN,
Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc.

The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health (2011). Retrieved from
http://www.thefutureofnursing.org/sites/default/files/Future%20of%20Nursing%20Report_0.pdf

Virginia State Board of Nursing, Nursing Guidelines retrieved from,
http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/nursing_guidelines.htm

World Health Organization