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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:

APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:

DATE: 9/13

REVISED DATE:

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN X LPN

ADVISORY OPINION INTRANASAL ADMINISTRATION OF VERSED (MIDAZOLAM) FOR TREATMENT OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ACUTE SEIZURE OUTSIDE THE CLINICAL SETTING

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse to administer intranasal medications such as Versed (Midazolam) prescribed for the purpose of treating signs and symptoms of seizure outside the clinical setting if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer.
 1. The policy identifies which medications are allowed for intranasal administration for the treatment of signs and symptoms of seizure, preferably with the input of medical and nursing professionals.
 2. The employer must maintain documentation of the nurse's demonstration of knowledge, skills, and abilities related to the management of patients receiving intranasal medication for the treatment of signs and symptoms of seizure. Evaluation and documentation of ongoing competency should occur on an annual basis and be maintained on file with the employer.

- B. The nurse administering intranasal medications for treatment of signs and symptoms of seizure must possess the knowledge and demonstrate competency in applying the following in practice:
 1. The nurse must perform a pre-administration assessment to determine that the patient is an appropriate candidate for administration of the prescribed medication. The assessment should include, but is not limited to a focused physical examination inclusive of vital signs, evaluation of the airway, and neurologic status.
 2. The nurse will continue to monitor the patient's vital signs, airway, and neurologic status during and after administration and may not leave the patient until care is turned over to another qualified provider or legal guardian. The medication must be prescribed by a provider licensed in this state and must be prescribed for the specific individual to whom it is administered.
 3. Basic Life Support

- C. The employer will maintain a record of the nurses having satisfactorily completed an instructional programs that includes supervised clinical practice or return demonstration.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

The nurse administering intranasal medications such as versed for signs and symptoms of seizure must possess the knowledge of and demonstrate competency in applying the following in practice:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory and central nervous systems.
- B. Pathophysiology of seizures.
- C. Potential medication adverse reactions
- D. Specific considerations, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Indications for treatment and potential adverse reactions
 - 2. Emergency management including airway management and basic life support
 - 3. Assessment of level of consciousness and physiological response to the drug.
- E. Potential complications
- F. Recognizing emergency situations and instituting appropriate nursing interventions

III. RATIONALE

The intent of this advisory opinion is to provide clarification for nurses who may be required to administer prescribed intranasal medications such as Versed (Midazolam) for treatment of signs and symptoms of seizure outside the clinical setting. Intranasal Versed for the control of seizures is being prescribed as an off-label use. The FDA recognizes that non-FDA approved off-label use may constitute good medical practice (FDA 2011). Research evidence suggests that intranasal administration of Versed in the setting of acute seizure is at least as safe and efficacious as rectally administered Diazepam, and is more widely accepted by caregivers.

REFERENCES

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "Off-label" and investigational use of marketed drugs, biologics, and medical devices - information sheet. <http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/ucm126486.htm>. Updated August 10, 2011. Accessed July 3, 2013.
- Holsti, M., Schunk, D. N., & Adalgais, K., et al. Intranasal midazolam vs. rectal diazepam for the home treatment of acute seizures in pediatric patients with epilepsy. *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*. 2010; 1164(8), 747-53. doi: 10.1001/archpediatrics.2010.130
- Kentucky Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion: Administration of Versed (Midazolam) via an Intranasal Route in School Settings. <http://kbn.ky.gov/practice/nasalversed.htm>. Updated July 11, 2007. Accessed July 2, 2013.
- Thakker, A., Shanbag, P. A randomized controlled trial of intranasal midazolam versus intravenous diazepam for acute childhood seizures. *Journal of Neurology*. 2013; 260(2): 470-4. doi: 10.1007/s00415-012-6659-3.