



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
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

INTUBATION: ENDOTRACHEAL, AND THE USE OF ADVANCED AIRWAY DEVICES: THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE

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

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. The nurse has satisfactorily completed a nationally recognized course suitable to the age of the patient, such as Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
- B. The employer maintains a written policy which allows the nurse to perform the procedure and specifies a method for education and a minimum of annual re-demonstration of the skill.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the agency's instructional program and demonstrated clinical proficiency is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is to include:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the pulmonary system, pharmacological and patient assessment for basic advanced airway management, didactic and classroom instruction, followed by supervised clinical practice required for intubation.
- B. Indications and contraindications for intubation including but are not limited to preparation of the patient, equipment set-up and maintenance.
- C. Safety measures and management of potential complications and unexpected outcomes, including the use of advanced airway devices.
- D. Indications and contraindications for selection of proper airway equipment appropriate for age specific populations.
- E. Verification procedures to ensure proper placement of the airway.
- F. Nursing care responsibilities and age specific management of the intubated patient.

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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