



**Doug Ducey**  
Governor

**Joey Ridenour**  
Executive Director

## ***Arizona State Board of Nursing***

4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655  
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888  
E-Mail: [arizona@azbn.gov](mailto:arizona@azbn.gov)  
Home Page: [www.azbn.gov](http://www.azbn.gov)

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: LUMBAR PUNCTURE**  
**DATE APPROVED: 5/88**  
**REVISED DATE: 10/96, 07/02, 3/06,**  
**1/13**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of  RN  LPN

### **ADVISORY OPINION LUMBAR PUNCTURE**

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform lumbar punctures if the following requirements are met:

#### **I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Written policy and procedures.
- B. Satisfactory completion of an agency's approved instructional program
- C. Satisfactory completion of a course of supervised clinical practice.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised practice is on file with the employer.

#### **II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the spine, spinal cord and meninges
- B. Indications and contraindications
- C. Potential adverse reactions
- D. Techniques of lumbar puncture
- E. Nursing care responsibilities, including patient education
- F. Appropriate management of comfort/pain/sedation
- G. Associated pharmacology
- H. Associated laboratory data
- I. Documentation requirements

#### **III. RATIONALE**

This procedure should only be performed by physicians, advanced practice nurses, and RNs with additional education and training\_ skills, and demonstrated competence.

#### **IV. REFERENCES**

Wiegand, D. LM. (Ed.) (2011) American Association of Critical Care Nurses Procedure Manual for Critical Care (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.) St Louis: El Sevir