



## **Arizona State Board of Nursing**

4747 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3653  
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.

Within the Scope of Practice of  RN  LPN

**OPINION: PACEMAKER WIRES**  
**APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:**  
**DATE: 1/90**  
**REVISED DATE: 1/95, 11/02, 3/06, 11/09, 1/13**  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**  
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

### **ADVISORY OPINION** **PACEMAKER WIRES, Removal of Temporary**

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to remove transvenous and epicardial temporary pacemaker wires if the General Requirements outlined below are met.

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

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have demonstrated competencies are allowed to remove temporary pacemaker wires.
- B. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer.
- C. Satisfactory completion of Advanced Cardiac Life Support educational program.
- D. The procedure for the removal of epicardial pacemaker wires can only be performed by an RN when a cardiothoracic surgeon is available on site for one hour following the procedure should any complications arise.

#### **II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION** includes but is not limited to:

- A. Cardiovascular anatomy and physiology.
- B. Basic dysrhythmia recognition and treatment.
- C. Indications and contraindications.
- D. Potential adverse reactions and /or complications
- E. Techniques of pacemaker wire removal.
- F. Nursing care responsibilities.

#### **III. RATIONALE**

The rationale is that the potential for arrhythmia from a foreign object within the heart is reduced by removing the object, i.e. transvenous pacer wire. Although epicardial pacemaker wire removal carries an increased risk of complications, this procedure can be performed safely by an RN with additional training and experience to recognize potential adverse reactions.

#### **IV. REFERENCE**

Lynne McHale Wiegand, D.J. and Carlson, K.K. American Association of Critical Care Nurses – Procedure Manual for Critical Care. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2005, Saunders-Elsevier, Inc., St. Louis, pp. 311-313.

Louisiana State Board of Nursing Statement of Position dated November 2, 1983. Retrieved on November 11, 2012. [www.lsbn.state.la.us/](http://www.lsbn.state.la.us/)

Mississippi State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion: Epicardial Pacing Wires. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from [www.msbn.state.ms.us/](http://www.msbn.state.ms.us/)

Nebraska State Board of Nursing, Advisory Opinion: Epicardial Pacing Wires, last revision 5/2000. Retrieved November 10, 2012 from [www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl\\_nursing\\_rn-lpn\\_advisory.aspx](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl_nursing_rn-lpn_advisory.aspx)

Nevada State Board of Nursing Advisory Opiniuon: EPicardial Pacing Wire Removal. Amended and approved March 12, 2003. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from [www.nursingboard.state.nv.us/pinfo](http://www.nursingboard.state.nv.us/pinfo)

South Carolina State Board of Nursing, Advisory Opinion #48. Last reviewed May, 2006. Retrieved November 1, 2012 from [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing)