



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: Sheath Removal, Placement of Mechanical Compression Devices & Deployment of Extravascular Collagen Plugs

DATE APPROVED: 1/90

REVISED DATE: 7/02, 3/03, 1/07, 3/10, 9/13

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of: X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

SHEATH REMOVAL, PLACEMENT OF MECHANICAL COMPRESSION DEVICES, & DEPLOYMENT OF VASCULAR CLOSURE DEVICES

It is not within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse to deploy suture mediated closure devices. (see Suture Mediated Devices Advisory Opinion).

It is within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse to remove intravascular (arterial or venous) sheaths and apply manual compression or mechanical compression devices and deploy collagen vascular closure devices for hemostasis, if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. Physician's order is obtained and a physician is readily available to manage complications related to deployment of vascular closure devices.
- C. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have supervised clinical practice with return demonstration are allowed to remove sheaths, apply manual compression or mechanical compression devices and deploy vascular closure devices.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the agency/employer.
- E. A periodic educational/competency validation mechanism is developed, and documentation of the successful demonstration of knowledge, skills, and abilities is on file for each nurse performing the procedures.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION which provides didactic and classroom instruction, followed by supervised clinical practice that includes but is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to femoral artery, vein, nerves and groin area structures.
- B. Indications and contraindications of compression devices and deployment of vascular closure devices.
- C. Demonstrated knowledge of potential adverse reactions and management of complications.
- D. Sterile technique.
- E. Cognitive and psychomotor skills necessary to deploy vascular closure devices.
- F. Legal ramifications of deploying vascular closure device, including the RN's responsibility and liability in the event of untoward reaction or life-threatening complications.

- G. For Sheath removal: supervised clinical practice with demonstration of competency for sheath removals and compression applications.
- H. For collagen vascular closure deployment: Supervised clinical practice with demonstration of successful deployments, including patients who have received anticoagulant therapy.

III. RATIONALE

The guiding principle for this opinion is that sheath removal, manual compression, the use of mechanical compression devices, and deployment of vascular closure devices can be safely performed by a registered nurse with specialized training, skills, and knowledge.

IV. REFERENCES

Arkansas State Board of Nursing (2013), Position statement 99-1: Registered Nurse Deployment of Extravascular Collagen Plugs. Retrieved from http://www.arsbn.arkansas.gov/laws/rules/documents/99_1.pdf

Hamel, W. J. (2009). Femoral Artery closure After Cardiac Catheterization. *Critical Care Nurse*. 2009; 29. 29(1), 39-46. Retrieved from <http://ccn.aacnjournals.org/content/29/1/39.full.pdf+html?sid=28bfc1fb-25a4-4462-9c49-81c5347c7e52>

Kentucky Board of Nursing. (2013). Advisory opinion statement: Removal of femoral access devices (sheaths) and use of mechanical compression devices by nurses. Retrieved from <http://www.kbn.ky>.

Merriweather, N. & Sulzbach-Hoke, L.M. (2012). Managing risk of complications at femoral vascular access sites in percutaneous coronary intervention. *Critical Care Nurse*, 32(5), 16-29. Retrieved from <http://ccn.aacnjournals.org/content/32/5/16.full.pdf+html?sid=c414b254-9be7-446f-888b-f4983ff01ef0>

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