



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: INTRADERMAL, SUBCUTANEOUS,
and SUBMUCOSAL INFILTRATION OF LOCAL
ANESTHETIC AGENTS: THE ROLE OF THE
NURSE: NEW
APPROVED DATE: 3/2015
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION INTRADERMAL, SUBCUTANEOUS, and SUBMUCOSAL INFILTRATION OF LOCAL ANESTHETIC AGENTS: ROLE OF THE NURSE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) and a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to administer intradermal (ID), subcutaneous (SC), and submucosal infiltrations (SI) of small amounts of local anesthetic agents for the purposes of analgesia and/or anesthesia prior to potentially painful procedures; if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. There is a written order for the administration of the local anesthetic by a licensed independent practitioner (LIP).
- B. A written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer which outlines the procedures and circumstances under which the local anesthetic may be administered.
- C. Only an RN and LPN who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and has documented satisfactory clinical practice on file with the employer, is allowed to administer these local anesthetic agents.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION to include, but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology indications/contraindications/complication management related to the infiltration of local anesthetic agents by the ID, SC and SM routes.
- B. Calculation of and knowledge of the maximum safe dosage of each type of local anesthetic agent
- C. Complication and side effects of local anesthetic agents
- D. Nursing care responsibilities related to a patient receiving a local anesthetic agent.

III. RATIONALE

The practice of infiltrating small doses of local anesthetics by RNs and LPNs is inherent in many current Advisory Opinions (IV insertions, lumbar punctures, central line insertions, punch and shave biopsies, and PICC insertion). Nurses are performing many procedures in which the administration of local anesthetics is standard practice prior to the procedure.

IV. REFERENCES

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