



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: IONIZING RADIATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES
APPROVED: 1/31/2014
REVISED DATE: 11/18/2016
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE: ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of LPN ___ RN ___ APRN X

ADVISORY OPINION IONIZING RADIATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE

STATEMENT OF SCOPE. It *is* within the Scope of Practice of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to order and interpret laboratory, radiographic, and other diagnostic tests, and perform those tests that the APRN is qualified to perform.

It is *not* within the scope of practice for an APRN, Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse, who do not have additional certification from the Arizona Radiology Regulatory Agency (ARRA), to use (operate a machine) ionizing radiation (including chest x-rays, Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) scan and fluoroscopy), or to perform any of the following acts during a radiologic procedure, either independently or under the direction or supervision of a licensed practitioner:

1. Position the patient for x-ray beam
2. Position the x-ray tube to acquire an image
3. Set exposure factors or initiate the exposure
4. Deliver ionizing radiation

A "Licensed practitioner" means a person licensed or otherwise authorized by law to practice medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, chiropractic or naturopathic medicine in this state.

I. RATIONALE:

The Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency ("ARRA") is responsible for the conduct of a statewide radiological health and safety program and for the enforcement of state rules and regulations for the control of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation; and the Medical Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners ("MRTBE") tests and certifies professionals to practice various specialties of medical imaging and therapy using ionizing radiation.

Only persons licensed by the MRTBE may administer ionizing radiation for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

The APRN may not engage in the practice of 'Healing Arts Radiography,' operating equipment under the registrant's control, unless the individual possesses a valid certificate issued by, or is exempt from, the MRTBE

II. REFERENCES:

Arizona State Board of Nursing. (2014, July 25). Rules of the State Board of Nursing. Arizona Administrative Code: R4-19-501-514 Roles and Population Foci of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing. Retrieved from: <https://www.azbn.gov/media/1426/rules.pdf#page=42>

Arizona Revised Statute: Professions and Occupations. Title 32, Chapter 15, Article 1. A.R.S. § 32-1601 (20) (a) (i-viii) Registered Nurse Practitioner. Retrieved from: <https://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/01601.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>

Arizona Revised Statute: Professions and Occupations. Title 32, Chapter 15, Article 1. A.R.S. § 32-1606 (B) (12). Retrieved from: <https://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/01606.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>

Arizona Revised Statute: Professions and Occupations. Title 32, Chapter 28. A.R.S. § 32-2801, (3) (4) (7) (8). Retrieved from: <https://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/02801.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>

Arizona Revised Statute: Professions and Occupations. Title 32, Chapter 28. A.R.S. § 32-2802
Retrieved from: <https://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/02802.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>

Arizona Revised Statute: Professions and Occupations. Title 32, Chapter 28. A.R.S. § 32-2811 A, B, C, D (1). Retrieved from: <https://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/02811.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>