ADVISORY OPINION

EPIDURAL ANALGESIA BY NURSE ANESTHETIST

It is within the scope of practice of a Nurse Anesthetist to provide epidural analgesia without the presence of a physician. If anesthesia is to be administered through the epidural, physician presence is required per A.R.S. § 32-1634.04.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
The Nurse Anesthetist must meet the educational requirements of A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 (A), completion of a nationally accredited program in the science of anesthesia.

RATIONALE
Nurse Anesthetists are qualified to provide epidural analgesia. There is a clinical distinction between the administration of epidural analgesia and epidural anesthesia. Because A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 requires physician presence during the administration of anesthesia, and not analgesia, physician presence is not required for a Nurse Anesthetist to administer epidural analgesia.

REFERENCES


A.R.S. § 32-1634.04