Opinion: Intraventricular Implanted Devices—Temporary Intracranial Catheters

Date: Approved: 11/92
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Originating Committee: Scope of Practice Committee

Within the Scope of Practice of ___ RN ___ LPN

Advisory Opinion

Intraventricular Implanted Devices
Temporary Intracranial Catheters

It is NOT within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to:

a. Administer therapeutic agents via temporary intracranial devices (e.g. External Ventricular Drains, Cisternal Drains).
b. Insert, remove, or verify correct placement

It is within the Scope of Practice for a RN to administer therapeutic agents via intraventricular implanted devices (e.g. Ommaya Reservoir).

It is within the scope of practice for a RN to aspirate cerebrospinal fluid from an implanted and temporary intraventricular device (e.g. External Ventricular Drain).

I. General Requirements

A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the facility/employer.
B. Only RNs who have successfully completed an instructional program, have had supervised clinical practice, and can demonstrate ongoing competency, are allowed to aspirate cerebrospinal fluid from implanted and temporary intraventricular devices with an order from a licensed independent provider (LIP)
C. Only RNs who have successfully completed an instructional program, have had supervised clinical practice, and can demonstrate ongoing competency, are allowed to administer therapeutic agents via intraventricular implanted devices
D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program, supervised clinical practice, and ongoing competency is on file with the employer.

II. Course of Instruction is to include but not be limited to:

A. Anatomy and physiology of the brain, central nervous system, and production, circulation, and function of cerebrospinal fluid.
B. Indications and contraindications of aspiration and instillation of therapeutic agents into ventricular implanted devices.
C. Indications and contraindications of aspiration of cerebrospinal fluid from implanted and temporary intraventricular devices.

D. Potential adverse reactions.

E. Principles of management:
   1. Aseptic technique.
   2. Techniques of aspiration.
   3. Techniques of instillation.
   4. Techniques of flushing
   5. Pharmacological aspects of therapeutic agents to be instilled.
   6. Avoidance and management of complications including infection, malfunction, and displacement.

F. Nursing Care Responsibilities

III. RATIONALE
The standard of care for a patient with increased intracranial pressure includes draining cerebral spinal fluid (Agency for Health Care Research and Quality). The guiding principle for this opinion is that it is recognized that a RN can safely provide care to the patients with intraventricular implanted devices and temporary intracranial devices. Such care includes but is not limited to assessing patients, providing patient and family education, and in some situations, accessing the device under the direction of a qualified provider and with specialized training, skills, and knowledge.

IV. REFERENCES


