Within the Scope of Practice of  RN   LPN

ADVISORY OPINION
PACEMAKER WIRES, Removal of Temporary

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to remove transvenous and epicardial temporary pacemaker wires if the General Requirements outlined below are met.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have demonstrated competencies are allowed to remove temporary pacemaker wires.
B. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer.
C. Satisfactory completion of Advanced Cardiac Life Support educational program.
D. The procedure for the removal of epicardial pacemaker wires can only be performed by an RN when a cardiothoracic surgeon is available on site for one hour following the procedure should any complications arise.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION includes but is not limited to:
A. Cardiovascular anatomy and physiology.
B. Basic dysrhythmia recognition and treatment.
C. Indications and contraindications.
D. Potential adverse reactions and/or complications
E. Techniques of pacemaker wire removal.
F. Nursing care responsibilities.

III. RATIONALE
The rationale is that the potential for arrhythmia from a foreign object within the heart is reduced by removing the object, i.e. transvenous pacer wire. Although epicardial pacemaker wire removal carries an increased risk of complications, this procedure can be performed safely by an RN with additional training and experience to recognize potential adverse reactions.
IV. REFERENCE


