Within the Scope of Practice of ☒ RN ☒ LPN

ADVISORY OPINION
SUPERVISION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE BY REGISTERED NURSES

R4-19-101 "Supervision" means the direction, and periodic consultation, provided to an individual to whom a nursing task or patient care activity is delegated.

The Registered Nurse (RN) is responsible and accountable for the determination of the type of supervision required of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for those functions that can be legally performed by the LPN. The LPN is responsible to perform within the LPN scope of practice as defined by ARS 32-1601 (18).

When, in the judgment of the RN, the client’s state is unstable/unpredictable and rapid change may be anticipated, supervision of the LPN is achieved when the RN is physically present and is able to readily intervene in the care of the client. When, in the judgment of the RN, the client’s state is stable/predictable and rapid change is not anticipated, supervision of the LPN may be achieved without the physical presence of the RN or Licensed Independent Provider (LIP). In this instance, the RN or LIP must be readily available by electronic device. This does not preclude the fact that the RN is responsible for monitoring the care of all clients. The functions that can be legally performed by the LPN under the supervision of a LIP or a RN in accordance with ARS 32-1601 (19) include:

a) Contributing to the assessment of the health status of individuals and groups.
b) Participating in the development and modification of the strategy of care.
c) Implementing aspects of the strategy of care within the nurse’s scope of practice.
d) Maintaining safe and effective nursing care that is rendered directly or indirectly.
e) Participating in the evaluation of responses to interventions.
f) Delegating nursing activities within the scope of practice of a practical nurse.
g) Performing additional acts that require education and training as prescribed by the Board and that are recognized by the nursing profession as proper to be performed by a practical nurse.
RATIONALE:
To clarify the supervision requirements for an LPN by an RN.

REFERENCES: