



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: Administration of
Radioisotope
NOT APPROVED:
APPROVED: March 3, 2020
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE
COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

Administration of Radioisotope for Subtraction Ictal SPECT Co-Registered to MRI (SISCOM)

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the scope of practice of the Registered Nurse (RN) to handle and inject radioisotope for subtraction ictal SPECT co-registered to MRI (SISCOM) in an inpatient Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) for diagnostic purposes if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policies/procedures are maintained by the agency employer.
- B. Radioisotope injections for SISCOM may be performed by RNs on patient 16 years of age and older.
- C. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and have demonstrated competency are allowed to handle and inject radioisotope.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and demonstrated competency is on file with the employer.
- E. Radioisotope is prescribed by Licensed Independent Provider.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Prior to performing this procedure, the RN must complete education, which includes but is not limited to:
 - i. Seizure types
 - ii. Indications and contraindications of radioisotope injection
 - iii. Purpose of radioisotope injection
 - iv. Pharmacokinetics of radioisotope
 - v. Limitation of radioisotope
 - vi. Radioisotope injection techniques
 - vii. Radioisotope workflow.
 - viii. Procedure in the event of a radioisotope spill

- ix. Patient education
 - x. Documentation requirements
 - xi. Staff precaution
 - xii. Nursing care responsibility including patient monitoring and activity during availability of radioisotope
- B. Upon completion of education and prior to independent practice, the RN must have documented competency.

III. RATIONAL

SISCOM is a highly specialized neuroimaging diagnostic test used to locate surgically resectable areas of the brain generating seizures. In order for imaging to be successful, the ictal injection must be injected within 60 seconds of seizure onset. RNs are the appropriate resource to administer the ictal injection due to the time sensitive nature and the urgency of the patient event while actively seizing.

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