



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:

APPROVED DATE: 9/2013

REVISED DATE: 1/2017, 9/2020

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

INTRANASAL ADMINISTRATION OF MIDAZOLAM (VERSED) FOR TREATMENT OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ACUTE SEIZURE OUTSIDE THE CLINICAL SETTING

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse to administer intranasal (via syringe or spray) midazolam (versed) prescribed for the purpose of treating signs and symptoms of acute seizure outside the clinical setting if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer.
- B. Only nurses who have completed an instructional program and supervised clinical practice are allowed to administer intranasal midazolam for treatment of seizure outside the clinical setting.
- C. Basic Life Support.
- D. Documentation of completion of the instructional program, supervised practice, and competency verification is on file with the employer.
- E. Nursing responsibilities related to intranasal midazolam administration for treatment of seizure outside the clinical setting, including but not limited to: continue to monitor the patient's vital signs, airway, and neurologic status during and after administration and may not leave the patient until care is turned over to another qualified provider or legal guardian. The medication must be prescribed by a LIP and must be prescribed for the specific individual to whom it is administered.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is to include but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory and central nervous systems.
- B. Pathophysiology and recognition of seizures.
- C. Potential medication adverse reactions
- D. Specific considerations, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Indications for treatment and potential adverse reactions
 - 2. Emergency management including airway management and basic life support
 - 3. Assessment of level of consciousness and physiological response to the drug.
- E. Potential complications following administration
- F. Recognizing emergency situations and instituting appropriate nursing interventions

I. RATIONALE

Intranasal midazolam administration as a rescue medication for acute seizures can be safely performed by a nurse with specialized training, skills, and knowledge. This practice is supported by the literature as a safe, quick effective, and socially accepted means of treating prolonged seizures outside the clinical setting. The use of intranasal midazolam for treatment of acute seizure has been approved by the FDA and is recommended for those 12 years of age and others. Administration of intranasal midazolam for acute seizures in those less than 12 years of age remains an off label use of the drug according to the FDA.

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