



Arizona State Board of Nursing

1740 W. Adams Street, Suite 2000
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888
Home Page: <http://www.azbn.gov>

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: EPIDURAL ANALGESIA BY NURSE
ANESTHETIST**
APPROVED: X DATE: 01/03
REVISED DATE: 5/15, 2/3/2021
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION EPIDURAL ANALGESIA BY CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST

It is within the scope of practice of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) to provide epidural analgesia without the presence of a physician. If epidural anesthesia is to be administered, physician presence is required per A.R.S. § 32-1634.04.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The CRNA must meet the educational requirements of A.R.S. § 32-1634.04 (A), completion of a nationally accredited program in the science of anesthesia.

RATIONALE

CRNAs are qualified to provide epidural analgesia. There is a clinical distinction between the administration of epidural analgesia and epidural anesthesia. Because A.R.S. §32-1634.04 requires physician presence during the administration of anesthesia, and not analgesia, physician presence is not required for a CRNA to administer epidural analgesia.

REFERENCES

Qualifications and Capabilities of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 1999.

Scope and Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, 1996.

A.R.S. § 32-1634.04