Katie Hobbs
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

1740 West Adams Street, Suite
2000 Phoenix, AZ 85007-2607
Phone: (602) 771-7800
Homepage: 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: ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION VIA INTRAPLEURAL ROUTE
APPROVED: 7/2018;
REVISED DATE: 8/2022 03/2024
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of ____LPN __X RN

Advisory Opinion:
Administration of Medication Via Intrapleural Route

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse (RN) to administer medication through either a pigtail catheter or chest tube for treatment of empyema, pleural effusions, flush/irrigation, or for analgesic purposes. Sclerotic agents such as talc or doxycycline, or chemotherapy are NOT covered by this Advisory Opinion"

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Written policies/procedures are maintained by the agency/ employer.
B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program, and have had supervised clinical practice are allowed to perform intrapleural administration of medication.
C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised practice is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

A. Prior to performing this procedure, the RN must complete education, which includes but is not limited to:
   i. Anatomy and physiology of the lungs, pleural space, and the area involving the chest tube device
   ii. Indications and contraindications for procedure
   iii. Chest tube devices, including placement, monitoring, complications, and appropriate nursing interventions
   iv. Techniques and use of equipment used during the procedure, including safe administration practices to avoid inadvertent administration

v. Pharmacological indications, contraindications, complications of the medications being administered, and appropriate nursing interventions
vi. Nursing care responsibilities including patient monitoring, assessment of vital signs, and focused assessment of respiratory status
vii. Potential adverse reactions and complications, including emergencies such as catheter dislodgement, air embolus, bleeding, or other serious complication
viii. Consent
ix. Patient education
x. Documentation

B. Upon completion of education, and prior to independent practice, the RN must have documented supervised clinical practice

III. RATIONALE

Minimally invasive treatments for pleural effusion/ empyema include intrapleural instillation of medications (i.e. tPA and DNase), through a tube (e.g. pigtail or chest tube). This therapy includes a series of steps including instillation of medication, followed by dwell time and drainage. Evacuation of contents is a successful outcome of this therapy which is evaluated by the ordering clinician.

IV. REFERENCES

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