



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: APHERESIS DONOR ROLE OF LPN
APPROVED DATE: 03/03
REVISED DATE: 8/18, 11/06, 3/10, 7/13, 9/18,8/22
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION APHERESIS: ROLE OF THE LPN

For the purpose of this Advisory Opinion the following definitions apply:

Donor apheresis (DA) is the process of removing whole blood from a healthy donor with an automated instrument designed to remove specific blood components, such as plasma or platelets, and re-transfuse the remaining components back to the donor (autologous).

Therapeutic apheresis (TA) is also the removal of specific blood components. However, unlike donor apheresis, therapeutic apheresis is performed on patients with underlying disease processes and physiological abnormalities which have the potential to be exacerbated by the TA procedure. In addition, specific blood components are removed but may be replaced by donor blood components or volume expanders which are not within the Scope of Practice for an LPN to administer.

It is within the Scope of Practice for a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to perform **donor apheresis** under the supervision of an RN competent in performing apheresis who is physically present in the facility at all times.

Due to the complexity and potential complications, it is **NOT within the Scope of Practice** for an LPN to perform **therapeutic apheresis** at any time.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. The LPN has demonstrated competence, according to the guidelines of American Society for Apheresis and has satisfactorily completed an organized instructional program on apheresis that includes didactic and supervised clinical practice.
- C. The LPN has satisfactorily completed an organized instructional program on intravenous therapy and medication skills in either the AZ LPN core curriculum OR an organized course of instruction that includes didactic and supervised clinical

- practice.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional programs and supervised practice is on file with the employer.
 - E. Documentation of annual reviews of competency, which verifies the individual has retained the necessary skills, judgment and knowledge to perform the responsibilities specific to collection of donor apheresis products.
 - F. An RN competent in performing in apheresis is physically present in the facility at all times during the procedure.
 - G. A licensed qualified independent provider should be available for consultation via telephone throughout the entire procedure.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION (followed by supervised clinical practice that is required) includes but is not limited to:

- A. Donor screening
- B. Venipuncture techniques
- C. Safe operation of the cell separator in use by the facility
- D. Observation of changes in the client status and how to prevent and initially manage adverse reactions
- E. How to manage fluid volumes safely
- F. Conditions to report to the RN
- G. Required documentation

III. RATIONALE

Based on evidence for best practice, it is recognized that the LPN who has satisfactorily met the general requirements outlined in this AO can safely perform donor apheresis under the supervision of an RN trained in apheresis who is physically present in the facility.

IV. REFERENCES

American Society for Apheresis (ASFA). (2021). Guidelines for therapeutic apheresis allied health staff. *American Society for Apheresis*. Retrieved from www.apheresis.org

New York Codes Rules and Regulations (2021) Title: Section 58-2.15 - Collection of blood components by apheresis. Retrieved from

<https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-58-215-collection-blood-components-apheresis>

Ruback, J.D., Grossman, B.J., Harris, T. & Hillyer, C.D. (2020). American Association of Blood Banks Technical Manual (20th ed.). Bethesda, Maryland. Pages 705-711.