



**Doug Ducey**  
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: Auricular Acupuncture:  
Role of the RN  
Approved: 1/22  
Scope of Practice Committee**

Within the Scope of Practice of  RN  LPN

## ADVISORY OPINION AURICULAR ACUPUNCTURE: ROLE OF THE RN

### STATEMENT OF SCOPE:

The Arizona State Board of Nursing permits the use of protocolized auricular acupuncture by RNs with education, skills, and demonstrated supervised competency.

#### I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Written policies/procedures are maintained by the agency/employer in place.
- B. Only RNs who have completed an agency’s instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice may provide protocolized auricular acupuncture
- C. Documentation of 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:
  - a. Anatomy of the ear
  - b. Indications and contraindications for procedure
  - c. Acupuncture/acupressure devices, including placement, monitoring, complications, and appropriate nursing interventions
  - d. Techniques and use of equipment used during the procedure
  - e. Nursing care responsibilities including patient monitoring and assessment of ear
  - f. Potential adverse reactions and complications
  - g. Consent
  - h. Patient education
  - i. Documentation
- B. Upon completion of education, and prior to independent practice, the RN must have documented supervised clinical practice

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Auricular acupuncture - acupuncture performed on the outer surface of the ears
- B. Comprehensive acupuncture – includes techniques practiced by licensed acupuncturists, medical acupuncturists, and chiropractic acupuncturists including the insertion of needles into the body at acupuncture points. It is not within the RN scope of practice.
- C. Protocolized – is a set of specific acupuncture/acupressure points not dependent on a diagnosis

### IV. REFERENCES

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