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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: CNM ORDERING REGIONAL ANALGESIA IN LABOR MANAGEMENT
APPROVED DATE: 11/18/2016
REVISED DATE: 2/3/2021
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of ___ LPN ___ RN X APRN

ADVISORY OPINION

CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES ORDERING REGIONAL ANALGESIA IN LABOR MANAGEMENT

- I. STATEMENT OF SCOPE:** It is within the scope of practice for nurse-midwives to order epidural and regional analgesia for laboring patients to be provided by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA's) or anesthesiologist.

As defined under Scope of Practice, Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM) are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) who have acquired the formal education, extended knowledge base and clinical skills beyond the registered nurse level to practice in an advanced role as direct health care providers.

- Nurse Practitioners provide health care services within their specialty area to individuals, families and groups including but not limited to admission, management of care, discharge and follow up, in ambulatory, acute, long term and other health care settings.
 - Nurse Practitioners utilize critical judgment in the performance of comprehensive health assessments, differential medical diagnosis including ordering, conducting, and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests, and the prescribing of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments in the direct management of acute and chronic illness and disease.
 - Nurse Practitioners work collaboratively with other health care professionals when appropriate.
- II. RATIONALE:** In accordance with A.R.S. § 32-1601(19), a nurse practitioner is a professional nurse (RN) who is certified by the board and has an expanded scope of practice within a specialty area. Per A.A.C. R4-19-501(1) & (7), A Registered Nurse Practitioner (RNP) in a population focus includes Certified-Nurse Midwives (CNM) as a

population focus of RNP. The American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) defines the specialty area including and not limited to labor and birth care and prescribing medications. In the population focus area reviewed in this advisory opinion, the CNMs population focus relates to the CNM role and functions within the setting of labor and birth.

- Analyzing multiple sources of data, identifying alternative possibilities as to the nature of a health care problem and selecting, implementing and evaluating appropriate treatment;
- Making independent decisions in solving complex client care problems;
- Diagnosing, performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, prescribing, administering and dispensing therapeutic measures, including legend drugs, medical devices and controlled substances within the scope of registered nurse practitioner practice on meeting the requirements established by the board.

III. REFERENCES:

American College of Nurse Midwives (2011). Definition of midwifery and scope of practice of certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Retrieved from:
<http://www.midwife.org/Our-Scope-of-Practice>

Arizona State Board of Nursing (2009). Title 4. Professions and Occupations. Chapter 19 Board of Nursing. Supp. 08-04. Phoenix, AZ. Retrieved from:
<https://www.azbn.gov/laws-rules/nurse-practice-act>

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (2015). Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from:
<https://www.aanp.org/images/documents/publications/scopeofpractice.pdf>