



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: Electrophysiology Related Procedures by RNs
DATE APPROVED: 9/21/05
REVISED DATE: 9/08, 9/11, 1/15 7/2018, 7/2021
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Within the Scope of Practice RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY RELATED PROCEDURES ROLE OF REGISTERED NURSE

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is **not** within the scope of a registered nurse (RN) to access, engage, or manipulate the catheter within the coronary artery.

In no event should an RN be expected to replace or assume the responsibilities of the qualified licensed independent provider (LIP) performing the given procedure.

It is within the scope of a RN, in the immediate presence of a qualified LIP, to assist with the following procedures: (a) the insertion of cardiac catheters including central arterial/venous access catheters, (b) cardiac catheter manipulation and services that support electrophysiology studies, and (c) ablation procedures.

Assisting with these procedures can only be accomplished when the LIP is present but unable to perform those functions:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. Documentation is on file of the RN completing the following:
 1. An electrocardiogram (ECG) course which includes 12 lead interpretations.
 2. Current certification in appropriate age advanced life support
 3. Concepts in perioperative nursing, including sterile technique.
 4. Pharmacology instruction with cardiac drug emphasis.
 5. Instructional program on intra-cardio echocardiogram.
 6. An instructional program in electrophysiology which includes participating in ablation procedures with supervised clinical practice.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION on electrophysiology procedures is to include but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to the vascular system/cardiac system.
- B. Insertion techniques specific to insertion devices.
- C. Potential complications and management techniques.
- D. Nursing care responsibilities.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Upon attaining two years of clinical experience, it is recommended that an RN will seek national certification in electrophysiology such as through the International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE).

III. RATIONALE

It is recognized that an RN who has completed an instructional program/supervised clinical practice in specific electrophysiology studies, and has met the general requirements, can safely provide care to patients undergoing electrophysiology studies. Such care includes but is not limited to assessing patients and providing patient and family education. The RN may manipulate cardiac catheters (when not within the coronary artery), and assist physicians in procedures such as pacemaker placement, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillators (AICD), angiograms, ablations, and other electrophysiology studies, when the qualified LIP is in the immediate presence and directly supervising the nurse.

IV. REFERENCES

International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners. (n.d.). Exam preparation. Retrieved from <https://www.ibhre.org/Exam-Preparation>

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Kentucky State Board of Nursing. (2018). Roles of registered nurses in invasive cardiac procedures. Retrieved from <https://kbn.ky.gov/practice/Documents/aos20.pdf>

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE). (2018). *Standards of professional practice for the allied professional in pacing and electrophysiology*. Retrieved from <https://www.hrsonline.org/guidance/clinical-resources/2003-naspe-standards-professional-practice-allied-professional-pacing-and-electrophysiology>