



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: Endoscopic Procedures:
The Role of the RN/LPN**
Approved: 1/13
Revised: 9/17, 12/20, 08/22
Scope of Practice Committee

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION ENDOSCOPIC PROCEDURES: THE ROLE OF THE RN/LPN

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is NOT within the scope of practice for a nurse to replace or assume the responsibilities of the endoscopist performing the procedure.

It is within the scope of practice for a nurse with appropriate knowledge and skill, to assist the endoscopist during the performance of endoscopic procedures and to perform selected acts under the continuous, direct, and on-site supervision and direction of the endoscopist performing the procedure. These selected acts may include, but are not limited to, the manipulation of the endoscope and the assistance of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube insertion, under the principle of an “extra pair of hands”.

Manipulation of the endoscope is defined by the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA) as “only the act of advancing or withdrawing the endoscope under direct supervision of the endoscopist” (SGNA, 2017, p. 1).

The nurse with current knowledge, competency, and experience in PEG tube placement may be given the responsibility to perform additional duties in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a physician endoscopist. The SGNA position statement on the role of the nurse in the placement of PEG tubes (2012) states that it is acceptable practice for RNs to provide ‘direct nursing care’ and ‘technical support’, and LPNs may provide ‘technical support’ as defined in the SGNA position statement.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The nurse who is assisting with endoscopic procedures must meet the following general requirements:

- A. The nurse who is performing the select endoscopy procedures such as manipulating the endoscope and assisting with PEG tube insertion, is under the direct supervision of a endoscopist who is licensed to order and perform endoscopies.
- B. The nurse is able to provide assistance to the endoscopist by manipulating the endoscope during an endoscopic procedure. The nurse is not expected to replace or assume the duties of the licensed provider performing the endoscope procedure.

- C. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- D. The education for the endoscopy nurse should include the information listed under the course of instruction, as well as other areas of information required by the employer.
- E. The nurse should receive education regarding interventions for complications of endoscopic procedures.
- F. The nurse monitoring the patient may not be the nurse manipulating the endoscope or performing other procedures as assistant to the endoscopist.
- G. Only nurses who have completed the employers' instructional program, have supervised clinical practice and demonstrated competency are allowed to manipulate the endoscope equipment.
- H. Ongoing education and competency validation will be determined by agency policy
Documentation of the successful demonstration of knowledge, skill, and abilities is kept on file for each nurse performing the procedures.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

The course of instruction which includes didactic and classroom instruction, followed by supervised clinical practice for each procedure performed that includes but is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal system
- B. Monitoring and documentation of endoscopy procedure
- C. Techniques/skills of endoscope manipulation
- D. Complications associated with endoscopic procedures
- E. Appropriate interventions under the direction of the endoscopist
- F. Techniques for PEG tube insertion

III. RATIONALE

“Extra pair of hands” means that the nurse is following the guidance of the endoscopist who is performing direct supervision of the nurse during the course of the endoscopic procedures. The nurse is acting as an extra pair of hands and is not acting independently.

Nurses are able to safely manipulate endoscopes and assist with PEG tube insertion as reflected in current practice. Appropriate education and skills are essential for safe patient care.

IV. REFERENCES

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