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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: IONIZING RADIATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES

APPROVED: 1/31/2014

REVISED DATE: 11/18/2016; 05/2020

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
APRN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

ADVISORY OPINION

IONIZING RADIATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES

STATEMENT OF SCOPE. It is within the Scope of Practice of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to order and interpret laboratory, radiographic, and other diagnostic tests, and perform those tests that the APRN is qualified to perform.

It is *not* within the scope of practice for an APRN, Registered Nurse, or Licensed Practical Nurse who *do not* have additional certification from the Arizona Radiological Regulatory Agency (ARRA), to use (or operate a machine) ionizing radiation (including chest x-rays, Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry [DEXA] scan, and fluoroscopy), or to perform any of the following acts during a radiologic procedure, either independently or under the direct supervision of a licensed practitioner:

1. Position the patient for x-ray beam
2. Position the x-ray tube to acquire an image
3. Set exposure factors or initiate the exposure
4. Deliver ionizing radiation

A "Licensed practitioner" means a person licensed or otherwise authorized by law to practice medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, chiropractic or naturopathic medicine in this state.

I. RATIONALE:

The Arizona Radiological Regulatory Agency (ARRA) is responsible for the conduct of a statewide radiological health and safety program and for the enforcement of state rules and regulations for the control of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. The Medical Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners (MRTBE) tests and certifies professionals to practice various

specialties of medical imaging and therapy using ionizing radiation. Only persons licensed by the MRTBE may administer ionizing radiation for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

The APRN may engage in the practice of ‘Healing Arts Radiography’ operating equipment under the registrants control *only if* the individual possesses a valid, current certificate issued by, or is exempt from, the MRTBE.

II. APPLICABLE RULE:

Arizona Administrative Code:

- **Rule 4-19-508(B):** In addition to the scope of practice permitted a registered nurse, a registered nurse practitioner, under A.R.S. §§ 32-1601 (20) and 32-1606(B)(12), may perform the following acts within the limits of the population focus of certification:
- **Rule 4-19-508(B)(3):** Order and interpret laboratory, radiographic, and other diagnostic tests, and perform those tests that the RNP is qualified to perform.

References

Statutes, A. R. (2020, January 04). *Arizona Legislative*. Retrieved from Arizona Revised statutes: <https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01601.htm>