



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: EXTERNAL VENTRICULAR
DRAIN: MANAGEMENT, CSF
SAMPLING AND LINE FLUSHING
APPROVED: 1/2018
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION: EXTERNAL VENTRICULAR DRAIN MANAGEMENT, CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID SAMPLING, AND LINE FLUSHING

STATEMENT OF SCOPE: It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse (RN) to maintain, troubleshoot, and monitor an external ventricular drain (EVD), including obtaining cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) for sampling, and flushing to de-clot the line, if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Orders for EVD maintenance, intracranial pressure (ICP) monitoring, dressing changes, any sampling, or flushing are obtained from the licensed independent practitioner (LIP)
- B. Written policies and procedures of EVD care or reference(s) to current practice standards which address competency, scope, and supervision requirements will be maintained by the employer/facility
- C. The RN must satisfactorily complete an instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice with EVD care
- D. Annual education about management of patients with EVDs

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION includes but is not limited to:

- A. Assisting with EVD catheter insertion and removal, as applicable to facility
- B. EVD equipment set up
- C. Zeroing and calibration of EVDs
- D. Obtaining ICP tracings
- E. Site dressing changes
- F. Collection of CSF from EVD
- G. Flushing of catheter to de-clot the line, proximal to the collection container
- H. Maintenance of closed EVD system
- I. Demonstrated knowledge of potential complications of EVDs

III. RATIONALE

An RN can safely maintain, troubleshoot, and monitor an external ventricular drain (EVD), obtain CSF for sampling, and flush to de-clot the line, with satisfactory training, supervised clinical practice, and appropriate resources available for complication management

IV. REFERENCES

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