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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: NEW
APPROVED: 1/31/14
REVISED DATE: 9/15/2017
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN X LPN

ADVISORY OPINION **Immunization Administration Using a Nursing Protocol**

STATEMENT OF SCOPE: It is within the scope of practice of the registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) to administer specific immunizing agents or vaccines using a nursing protocol. CMS allows nurses (regardless of setting) to administer influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations without a specific physician's order.

Refer also to Arizona Advisory Opinion: Standing Orders, Protocols, Preprinted Orders, & Order Sets (Decision Support Tools)

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be met:

- A. Immunization protocols are written, maintained, and approved by the employer and the appropriate licensed independent practitioner(s) (LIP) (s).
- B. Immunization protocols contain the following elements:
 1. Written according to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
 2. Separate protocols are written for adults (aged 19 years or older) and children/adolescents (aged 18 years or younger).
 3. Contraindications for implementation (e.g. patients or populations of patients for whom the vaccine should not be administered and/or the conditions under which the vaccine should not be administered).
 4. The name, dose, and route of administration for the immunizing agent/vaccine.
 5. The inclusion and/or exclusion criteria that the nurse will assess prior to administration (e.g. age, vaccine history, allergies, etc.).
 6. The informed consent process
 7. Documentation in the medical record should follow CDC, local, state, and federal requirements
- C. Documentation of clinical competency regarding the use of this protocol is on file with the employer. Demonstration of competency includes the assessment and management of possible local, systemic, or allergic reactions related to the immunization or vaccine administered.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

RN/LPNs who utilize immunization/vaccine protocols are expected to possess knowledge of and demonstrate competency applying the following into practice:

- A. The process for initiating the immunization/vaccine protocol
- B. The CDC adult and child/adolescent schedules as appropriate to the population
- C. Correct dose and injection techniques/sites for each immunizing agent/vaccine according to CDC guidelines
- D. The allergy screening process including contraindications
- E. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for each immunizing agent/vaccine included in the protocol(s)
- F. Requirements for informed consent
- G. Management of local, systemic, or allergic reactions related to immunizing agent/vaccine
- H. Documentation requirements
- I. Other requirements related to administration of immunizations/vaccines (e.g. providing client with a copy of current Vaccine Information Statement)

III. RATIONALE:

Standardized protocols/decision-support tools have been effectively and safely utilized by RNs and LPNs for many years. The use of vaccine protocols/standing orders for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines have been supported by the CDC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2016) for more than a decade.

IV. REFERENCES

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