

Doug Ducey
Governor



Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 North 7th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888
Home Page: www.azbn.gov

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: VENTILATOR CARE BY LPNS
APPROVED DATE: 5/93
REVISED DATE: 3/03, 03/07, 1/11, 1/15, 3/18
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION **VENTILATOR CARE BY LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES**

It is NOT within the scope of practice of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) to independently implement nursing actions based on conclusions of assessments drawn from his/her observations. e.g. perform ventilator adjustments.

It is within the LPN scope of practice to provide care to a ventilator dependent patient under the supervision and delegation of a registered nurse (RN), as specified in R4-19-101

LPNs may assist with ventilator care in all settings by providing basic care, making observations, and by recording and reporting such observations.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures addressing all aspects of care are maintained by the employer/agency
- B. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer
- C. The documentation of continuing education and demonstrated proficiency must be maintained on an ongoing basis
- D. Documentation of training to intervene in life threatening emergencies when resuscitation is necessary.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is to include and is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system
- B. Set-up and management of equipment, including emergency resuscitation equipment
- C. Signs and symptoms of respiratory distress/ventilator malfunction
- D. Indications for and performance of oral care and tracheal suctioning
- E. Signs of ventilator malfunctions, including instruction in alarm interpretation and level of importance
- F. Management of complications related to ventilator care

- G. Replacement of an inner-tracheostomy cannula in an established tracheostomy;
Replacement of outer tracheostomy cannula may only be replaced in emergent situations.
- H. Appropriate communication techniques to use with mechanically ventilated patients

III. RATIONALE

An LPN may manage aspects of routine ventilator care in a ventilator-dependent patient. Acts which involve patient diagnosis or prescription of nursing interventions to implement a strategy of care, such as changing ventilator settings in response to laboratory results or change in patient condition, are NOT within the LPN scope of practice.

IV. REFERENCES

Arizona State Board of Nursing. (2017). Rules of the State Board of Nursing. Retrieved from <https://www.azbn.gov/media/2305/rulesjuly12017final.pdf>

Arizona State Legislature. (2018). Definitions. Retrieved from <https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=http://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01601.htm>

Grossbach, I., Chlan, L., & Tracy, M. F. (2011). Overview of mechanical ventilatory support and management of patient and ventilator-related responses. *Critical Care Nurse, 31*(3), 30-44.

Ramsey, A. Brennan, S, A et.al. (2018). Emergency airway and ventilator procedures for Community based home care staff validation of an educational program. *Pediatric Pulmonology, 1-7*.

State Boards of Nursing References:

New Hampshire State Board of Nursing. (2015). *LPN scope of practice advisories approval*. Retrieved from <https://oplc.nh.gov/nursing/documents/lpn-scopepractice.pdf>

Maine State Board of Nursing. (2017). Practice questions related to licensed practical nurses: Ventilator. Retrieved from <http://maine.gov/boardofnursing/practice/lpn-questions.html#ventilator>

South Carolina State Board of Nursing. (2016). Advisory opinion #37. Retrieved from <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/AdvisoryOp/AO37.pdf>

South Dakota State Board of Nursing. (n.d). LPN scope of practice. Retrieved from <https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/PDF/SOPLPNTasks2016.pdf>

Tennessee Board of Nursing. (2017). Position statement: LPN care of ventilated patients in home health setting. Retrieved from

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/Position_Statement_Booklet.pdf

West Virginia Board of Nursing. (2015). Criteria for determining scope of practice for licensed nurses and guidelines for determining acts that may be delegated or assigned by licensed nurses. Retrieved from

<https://wvrnboard.wv.gov/lawandscope/Documents/Scope%20of%20Practice%20Purple%20Book%204-4-2016.pdf>