

KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
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ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

**REMOVAL OF FEMORAL ACCESS DEVICES (SHEATHS) AND USE OF
MECHANICAL COMPRESSION DEVICES BY NURSES**

Introduction

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314 to regulate nurses, nursing education and practice, and to issue advisory opinions on nursing practice, in order to assure that safe and effective nursing care is provided by nurses to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Board of Nursing issues advisory opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. It is issued as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice, and to facilitate the delivery of safe, effective nursing care to the public.

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

KRS 314.021(2) holds nurses individually responsible and accountable for rendering safe, effective nursing care to clients and for judgments exercised and actions taken in the course of providing care.

KRS 314.021(2) imposes individual responsibility upon nurses. Acts which are within the permissible scope of practice for a given licensure level may be performed only by those licensees who personally possess the education and skill proficiency to perform those acts in a safe, effective manner.

Nursing practice should be consistent with the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*, established standards of practice, and be evidence based.

Advisory Opinion

The Board has received multiple inquiries as to whether the removal of femoral arterial and venous sheaths, administration of a local anesthetic agent (i.e. Lidocaine), and the use of mechanical compression devices post coronary stent placement are within the scope of registered nursing practice.

After review of the statutes governing nursing practice, curricula of prelicensure and continuing education nursing programs, standards of nursing practice, and study of the issues and concerns regarding the performance of these acts, the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued this advisory opinion statement.

It was the advisory opinion of the Board that the removal of femoral arterial and venous access devices (e.g., sheaths), the administration of a local anesthetic agent (Lidocaine), and the use of mechanical compression devices following cardiovascular procedures such as coronary stent placement, are within the scope of registered nursing practice. These procedures should be performed as ordered by the patient's provider.

The registered nurse who performs these procedures must possess substantial specialized knowledge and documented current clinical competency in the performance of the procedures and the care of the client undergoing the procedures and should:

1. Have documented completion of applicable continuing education, supervised clinical practice, and repeated return demonstration of competency. Applicable continuing education programs on sheath removal should include, but are not limited to, content on identification of complications, and nursing interventions to manage and treat complications. The American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiac Life Support course assists the nurse in gaining knowledge on the management of bradycardia hypotension.
2. Perform the procedures only when a qualified provider, who is aware of the performance of the procedures, is immediately available in the facility to intervene if complications occur.
3. Perform the procedures in accordance with appropriately established written agency policies and procedures which describe the performance of the acts, monitoring and placement of the patient in a specialty care area, clinical parameters for performance by an RN and protocol for nursing intervention in complications. It is the opinion of the Board that a patient undergoing these procedures should be placed in a specialty care unit where the patient receives continuous, ongoing monitoring by a qualified registered nurse.
4. If the procedures are performed by a registered nurse, who is not an employee of the institution, the institution should establish a credentialing system for credentials verification, privileges delineation, and current competency validation of the registered nurse who performs the acts within the institution.

It is within the scope of the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) qualified by education, experience, and current clinical competence, to perform these acts in accordance with 201 KAR 20:057 Scope and standards of practice of APRNs.

The performance of these acts is not within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice. The licensed practical nurse qualified by education and competence may assist a registered nurse in the care of a patient post-femoral access device removal as delegated by a registered nurse. For example, following removal and the initial application of pressure, a registered nurse may request a qualified licensed practical nurse assist in maintaining groin pressure, monitoring distal pulses and observing for external bleeding at the groin site. Such acts should not be delegated to unlicensed persons.

Determining Scope of Practice

In addition to this advisory opinion statement, the Kentucky Board of Nursing has published "Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines" which contains a decision tree chart providing guidance to nurses in determining whether a selected act is within an individual nurse's scope of practice now or in the future. A copy of the guidelines may be purchased from the Kentucky Board of Nursing office or downloaded from the KBN website at <http://kbn.ky.gov>.

Educational Preparation

Nurses are responsible for having documented evidence of adequate educational experiential preparation to perform these acts in a safe and effective manner.

Applicable Statutes¹

KRS 314.021(2) states:

All individuals licensed under provisions of this chapter shall be responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals' educational preparation and experience in nursing.

KRS 314.011(2) defines "delegation" as:

... Directing a competent person to perform a selected nursing activity or task in a selected situation under the nurse's supervision and pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated by the board in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.

KRS 314.011(8) defines "advanced practice registered nursing practice" as:

... The performance of additional acts by registered nurses who have gained added knowledge and skills through an organized postbasic program of study and clinical experience and who are certified by the American Nurses' Association or other nationally established organizations or agencies recognized by the board to certify registered nurses for advanced nursing practice. The additional acts shall, subject to approval of the board, include but not be limited to prescribing treatment, drugs, devices, and ordering diagnostic tests. Advanced practice registered nurses who engage in these additional acts shall be authorized to issue prescriptions for and dispense nonscheduled legend drugs as defined in KRS 217.905 and to issue prescriptions for but not to dispense Schedules II through V controlled substances as classified in KRS 218A.060, 218A.070, 218A.080, 218A.090, 218A.100, 218A.110, 218A.120, and 218A.130, under the conditions set forth in KRS 314.042 and regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Nursing on or before August 15, 2006. (a).... The performance of these additional acts shall be consistent with the certifying organization or agencies' scopes and standards of practice recognized by the board by administrative regulation.

KRS 314.011(6) defines "registered nursing practice" as:

... The performance of acts requiring substantial specialized knowledge, judgment, and nursing skill based upon the principles of psychological, biological, physical, and social sciences in the application of the nursing process in:

¹ A copy of the *Kentucky Nursing Laws* may be purchased from the Kentucky Board of Nursing office.

- a) The care, counsel, and health teaching of the ill, injured or infirm.
- b) The maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others.
- c) The administration of medication and treatment as prescribed by physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced registered nurse practitioner and as further authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses' Association Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurses. Components of medication administration include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Preparing and giving medication in the prescribed dosage, route, and frequency, including dispensing medications only as defined in subsection (17)(b) of this section;
 - 2. Observing, recording, and reporting desired effects, untoward reactions, and side effects of drug therapy;
 - 3. Intervening when emergency care is required as a result of drug therapy;
 - 4. Recognizing accepted prescribing limits and reporting deviations to the prescribing individual;
 - 5. Recognizing drug incompatibilities and reporting interactions or potential interactions to the prescribing individual; and
 - 6. Instructing an individual regarding medications.
- d) The supervision, teaching of, and delegation to other personnel in the performance of activities relating to nursing care.
- e) The performance of other nursing acts which are authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses' Association Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurses.

KRS 314.011(10) defines "licensed practical nursing practice" as:

...The performance of acts requiring knowledge and skill such as are taught or acquired in approved schools for practical nursing in:

- a) The observing and caring for the ill, injured, or infirm under the direction of a registered nurse, a licensed physician, or dentist.
- b) The giving of counsel and applying procedures to safeguard life and health, as defined and authorized by the board.
- c) The administration of medication or treatment as authorized by a physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced registered nurse practitioner and as further authorized or limited by the board which is consistent with the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses.
- d) Teaching, supervising, and delegating except as limited by the board.
- e) The performance of other nursing acts which are authorized or limited by the board and which are consistent with the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses' Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses.

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