



KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
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ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

INSERTION AND REMOVAL OF NASOGASTRIC TUBES AND REINSERTION OF PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY (PEG) TUBES

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 314 to regulate nurses, nursing education and practice, promulgate regulations 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.

Opinion: Insertion and Removal of Nasogastric Tubes and in the Reinsertion of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) Tubes

Approved Date: 6/1985

Revised: 2/1986; 12/1987; 1/1993; 4/1996; 2/2005; 4/2008, 2/2018

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Reviewed: 5/2013

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

In accordance with KRS 314.021(2), nurses are responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals' educational preparation and current clinical competence in nursing, and requires licensees to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Nursing practice should be consistent with the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*, established standards of practice, and be evidence based.

Rationale Advisory Opinion

The Kentucky Board of Nursing has received numerous inquiries regarding the role of nurses, primarily licensed practical nurses, in the insertion and removal of nasogastric tubes as well as the reinsertion of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tubes. The Board issued the following advisory opinion statement.

Advisory Opinion

"Nasogastric intubation" means the placement of a tube into the stomach via the nares (nose). The specific type of tube to be inserted should be determined after evaluation of multiple factors, including but not limited to the following: a) order of a qualified provider, b) individual patient need, c) manufacturer product information, d) precautions and potential complications associated with the specific tube, e) available research data, and f) availability of radiology services to evaluate the placement of the tube. Written approved facility policy, nursing policy and procedure should be established delineating the specific type of nasogastric tubes that may be placed, and the method of placement validation to be used in the health care setting.

Licensed Practical Nursing Practice

- A. It is within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice to insert and remove a nasogastric tube of a patient with normal anatomy and physiology of the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts when the nasogastric tube is placed in the stomach for the purpose of gavage, lavage for toxic substances, collection of nasogastric samples, or administration of medications.
- B. It is within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice, for the nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent in the performance of the procedure, to change a previously inserted percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube into a mature stoma site upon an order of a qualified provider.
- C. It is within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice, for the nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent in the performance of the procedure, to reinsert a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube per a valid order.

The Board recommends that:

- 1. The performance of these procedures by the licensed practical nurse is under the direction of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician;
- 2. If there is any question as to the safe performance of these procedures, the licensed practical nurse should consult with the registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician;
- 3. The licensed practical nurse who performs these procedures has documented evidence of adequate educational preparation and experience to perform this act as required by KRS 314.021(2). Such educational preparation should be acquired in an approved prelicensure education program for practical nurses or through successful completion of a continuing education course for the performance of the procedure; and
- 4. Performance of these procedures are in accordance with written nursing policies and procedures that are consistent with the definition of "licensed practical nursing practice."

Registered Nursing Practice

It is within the scope of registered nursing practice, to insert or remove a nasogastric tube for a patient who has a condition that alters the normal anatomy and physiology of the respiratory or gastrointestinal tract. If there is any question as to the safe performance of the procedure, the registered nurse should consult the qualified provider.

- A. The nurse who performs this procedure is responsible for having documented evidence of adequate educational preparation and experience to perform this act as required by KRS 314.021(2). Such educational preparation should be acquired in an approved prelicensure education program or through successful completion of a continuing education course.

- B. The performance of the procedure should be in accordance with written nursing policy and procedure.

Reinsertion of a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Tube

It is within the scope of registered nursing practice, for the nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent in the performance of the procedure, to change a previously inserted percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube into a mature stoma site upon an order of a qualified provider. If there is question as to the safe performance of the procedure, the nurse should consult the qualified provider prior to the reinsertion of the percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube.

Magnet Nasal Tube Retaining Device

The placement and removal of a nasal tube with a retaining device/system used to prevent nasal tube pullouts are within the scope of registered nursing practice. The registered nurse would place the device after a physician/APRN has completed an individual assessment of the patient and issued authorization for its placement. Following placement, the patient should be reassessed by a physician/APRN to assure its correct placement and that no complications have occurred. The registered nurse who places and/or removes a nasal tube retaining device must possess the requisite educational preparation and current clinical competence to perform the procedure in a safe, competent manner.

Determining Scope of Practice

KRS 314.021(2) holds all nurses individually responsible and accountable for the individual's acts based upon the nurse's education and experience. Each nurse must exercise professional and prudent judgment in determining whether the performance of a given act is within the scope of practice for which the nurse is both licensed and clinically competent to perform. In addition to this advisory opinion statement, the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued Advisory Opinion Statement #41 RN/LPN Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines which contains the KBN Decision-Making Model for Determining Scope of Practice for RNs/LPNs, and published the APRN Scope of Practice Decision Making Model 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 KBN Decision-Making Model for Determining Scope of Practice for RNs/LPNs may be downloaded from the Board's website

[https://kbn.ky.gov/practice/Documents/41%20KBN%20Decision-](https://kbn.ky.gov/practice/Documents/41%20KBN%20Decision-Making%20Model%20for%20Determining%20Scope%20of%20Practice%20for%20RNs-LPNs.pdf)

[Making%20Model%20for%20Determining%20Scope%20of%20Practice%20for%20RNs-LPNs.pdf](https://kbn.ky.gov/practice/Documents/41%20KBN%20Decision-Making%20Model%20for%20Determining%20Scope%20of%20Practice%20for%20RNs-LPNs.pdf) and a copy of the APRN guidelines may be downloaded from the Board's website

<http://kbn.ky.gov/practice/Documents/APRN%20Scope%20of%20Practice%20%20Decision%20Making%20Model.pdf>.

Applicable Statutes From the Kentucky Nursing Laws¹

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:

- a) The care, counsel, and health teaching of the ill, injured or infirm;
- b) The maintenance of health or prevention of illness of others;

¹ A copy of the *Kentucky Nursing Laws* may be downloaded from the Kentucky Board of Nursing website at <http://kbn.ky.gov>.

- c) The administration of medication and treatment as prescribed by physician, physician assistant, dentist, or advanced practice registered nurse and as further authorized or limited by the board, and which are consistent either with American Nurses' Association Scope and 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; and
- 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, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, 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 practice registered nurse 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; and
 - e) The performance of other nursing acts, which are authorized or limited by the board and which are consistent with the National Federation of Practical Nurses' Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of licensed practical nurses.