



**KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING**  
312 Whittington Parkway, Suite 300  
Louisville, Kentucky 40222-5172  
<http://kbn.ky.gov>

ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

**ROLES OF REGISTERED NURSES IN INVASIVE CARDIAC PROCEDURES**

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: Roles of Registered Nurses in Invasive Cardiac Procedures**

**Approved Date:** 2/1989  
**Revised:** 1/1993; 4/1995; 2/2005; 2/2012  
**Editorial Revision:** 1/2011; 5/2012;  
2/2016; 5/2018

**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 for Advisory Opinion**

The Kentucky Board of Nursing is authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 314 to regulate nurses and nursing education and practice, in order to assure that safe and effective nursing care is provided by nurses to the public. In response to multiple inquiries on the role and scope of practice of registered nurses in invasive cardiac diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued this advisory opinion.

## Advisory Opinion

After review of the statutes governing registered nursing practice, and study of the issues and concerns regarding both the role and scope of practice of registered nurses who assist a qualified cardiologist (hereinafter referred to as physician) during the performance of invasive cardiac procedures.<sup>1</sup> the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued the following opinion:

- 1) It is within the role and scope of practice for a registered nurse who possesses appropriate knowledge and technical skill to act as an assistant to a qualified physician during the performance of invasive cardiac procedures under the continuous, direct, and on-site supervision and direction of the physician performing the procedure. The performance of such acts may include, but is not limited to the following: advancement of a guidewire and balloon inflation during percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.
- 2) In no event should the registered nurse be expected to replace or assume the responsibilities of the physician performing the given procedure.
- 3) Registered nurses who assist in the performance of invasive cardiac procedures should:
  - a) Possess in-depth, specialized knowledge and competent technical skill in the performance of cardio-vascular perioperative and intraoperative nursing practice;
  - b) Be knowledgeable of the potential complications and adverse reactions which may result from such acts;
  - c) Possess the knowledge and skill to recognize adverse reactions and to take appropriate action as directed by the physician;
  - d) Perform acts which are in accordance with 1) the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*, 2) documented facility policy and procedures, 3) standards of nursing practice, and 4) evidence based practice.
- 4) The registered nurse should maintain documentation of educational preparation that provides for clinical practice and demonstration of competency in the performance of such acts.

### **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-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>.

<sup>1</sup> "Invasive cardiac procedures" means diagnostic or therapeutic procedures including, but not limited to: cardiac catheterization, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), electrophysiology (EP) studies, internal cardiac defibrillator implantation, and related procedures.

The Kentucky Board of Nursing issues advisory opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. 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.

Approved: 2/1989

Revised: 1/1993; 4/1995; 2/2005; 2/2012

Editorial Revision: 1/2011; 5/2012; 2/2016; 5/2018

### **Applicable Statutes From the *Kentucky Nursing Laws*<sup>2</sup>**

KRS 314.021(2) holds all nurses responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individuals' educational preparation and experience in nursing.

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;
- 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;
  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.

---

<sup>2</sup> A copy of the *Kentucky Nursing Laws* may be downloaded from the Kentucky Board of Nursing website at <http://kbn.ky.gov>.