

AOS #39 Deactivation of Implanted Defibrillator
(Revised 05/2018)



KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
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ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

**SCOPE OF REGISTERED NURSING PRACTICE IN THE DEACTIVATION OF AUTOMATIC
IMPLANTED CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATOR**

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: Scope of Registered Nursing Practice in the Deactivation of Internal Defibrillator

Approved Date: 4/2012
Editorial Revision: 5/2012; 4/2016;
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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

This statement is written to provide an advisory opinion on whether it is within the scope of registered nursing practice for the registered nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD).

Advisory Opinion

After review of the statutes governing nursing practice, curricula of pre-licensure and continuing education nursing programs, standards of nursing practice, and evidence based articles; the Kentucky Board of Nursing issued this advisory opinion statement:

It is within the scope of registered nursing practice for the registered nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) when the following conditions are met:

Disabling of AICD in an Acute Care Setting

1. Disabling of an AICD by an RN is allowed by documented institutional policy, procedures, and protocols;
2. A patient specific order is written by an authorized provider;
3. A physician or APRN is in attendance the entire time that the magnet is in use;
4. A complete nursing assessment should be performed and documented prior to each episode of temporary disabling of the AICD;
5. Cardiac monitoring is continuously performed;
6. An emergency cart must be immediately available;
7. The institution or practice setting has in place written policies and procedures/protocols, developed in accordance with accepted standards of practice, to guide the RN in temporarily disabling the AICD.
8. There is documentation/evidence of education, training and continuing competence of the RN in temporarily disabling the AICD.
9. The AICD should be evaluated by the appropriate cardiac provider post procedure

Disabling of AICD in Hospice/Palliative Care

It is within the scope of registered nursing practice for the registered nurse who is educationally prepared and clinically competent to apply a magnet to disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) for patients receiving hospice/palliative care. Nurses caring for hospice patients should follow the position statement issued by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) titled, "Care of Hospice Patients with Automatic Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators", http://www.nhpc.org/sites/default/files/public/NHPCO_ICD_position_statement_May08.pdf .

LPN Practice

The Board determined that it is **not** within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice to apply a magnet to temporarily disable an Automatic Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD).

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>.

Advisory opinion statements are issued by the Kentucky Board of Nursing as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion statement is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law.

References:

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