



KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
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ADVISORY OPINION STATEMENT

Roles of Nurses in the Performance of General 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 Nurses in the Performance of General Procedures

Approved Date: 4/2024

Revised:
Editorial Revision:

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 Statement

The Board receives inquiries related to the role of nurses in the performance of various procedures and the role and scope of nurses.

This opinion includes procedures that are not related to a specific body system currently addressed in other advisory opinion statements.

Nursing Interventions identified in this Advisory Opinion Statement include:

- **The Role of Nurses in the performance of:**
 - X-Rays; and
 - Fluoroscopy

Educational Preparation and Clinical Competency

Pursuant to KRS 314.021(2) all nurses are held responsible and accountable for making decisions that are based upon the individual's educational preparation and current clinical competence. One method for demonstrating educational preparation and clinical competence is through obtaining relevant certifications within a specialty area. Another method would be to create a portfolio of trainings, workshops, and continuing education that demonstrates the acquisition of additional knowledge and clinical competency in the specialty area.

Medical Imaging Technologist

Pursuant to KRS Chapter 311B.100, the Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy governs the scope of practice and licensure of professionals operating radiological equipment. 201 KAR 46:035 Practice standards, scope of practice, and ethical standards established standards for the licensure of individuals who perform medical imaging and radiation therapy for diagnostic and therapeutic standards. Additional information related the Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging & Radiation Therapy is available at <https://kbmirt.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Performance of acts related to X-Ray Procedures, Operating Mobile X-Ray Equipment and Fluoroscopy may require registration or licensing by another regulatory agency. Should an APRN wish to perform such act it is recommended that they contact the specific board that has jurisdiction over such acts.

Advisory Opinion: Performance of X-Ray Procedures and Operating Mobile X-Ray Equipment

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

APRNs may be authorized to perform additional acts due to training and experience, such as prescribing treatment, devices, and order diagnostic tests pursuant to KRS 314.011(8).

On February 16, 2023, the Board reaffirmed its 2017 opinion, that the performance of limited X-ray procedures and operating mobile X-ray equipment is within the scope of advanced practice registered nursing practice, for the APRN who is educationally prepared and clinically competent, in the performance of X-ray procedures and operation of mobile X-ray equipment.

Register Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

The performance of limited X-ray procedures and operating mobile X-ray equipment is **not** within the scope of registered nursing practice nor within the scope of licensed practical nursing practice.

Advisory Opinion: APRN Utilization of Fluoroscopy

The utilization of fluoroscopy and the operation of the equipment in the performance of fluoroscopic-guided procedures is within the scope of advanced practice registered nursing practice for the APRN who is currently educationally prepared and clinically competent in performing fluoroscopic- guided procedures.

Additionally, 1) the fluoroscopic-guided procedure and the utilization of fluoroscopy is performed according to an established, approved policy and procedure in the health care facility; and 2) the APRN has been granted clinical privileges to perform the fluoroscopic-guided procedure and utilize fluoroscopy through the health care facility's credentialing process.

Procedures	LPN	RN	APRN
	These tasks are not within the scope of practice of the LPN.	These tasks are not within the scope of practice of the RN.	APRNs Certified in the Relevant Role and Population Foci
Performance of Limited X-Ray Procedures and Operation of Mobile X-Ray Equipment			X
Utilization of Fluoroscopy and the Operation of Equipment in the Performance of Fluoroscopic-Guided			X
<i>Please Note: Nurse must be educationally prepared and clinically competent to perform any of the tasks/procedures listed above and follow the policies of their facility or organization.</i>			
*Qualified Healthcare Providers include MD, PA, APRN, and/or Dentist KRS 314.011 (6) and (10)			

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>.

Applicable Statutes from the Kentucky Nursing Laws -

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, 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 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 Licensed Practical Nurses' Standards of Practice or with Standards of Practice established by nationally accepted organizations of registered nurses.

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 a 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 medications 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(8) defines "advanced practice registered nursing practice" as:

"Advanced practice registered nursing" means the performance of additional acts by registered nurses who have gained advanced clinical knowledge and skills through an accredited education program that prepares the registered nurse for one (1) of the four (4) APRN roles; 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 practice registered nursing as a certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist; and who certified in at least one (1) population focus. 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.020, 218A.060, 218A.080, 218A.100, and 218A.120, under the conditions set forth in KRS 314.042 and regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Nursing on or before August 15, 2006. ... 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.