



Nebraska Board of Nursing

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: Arterial Lines
ADOPTED: 1992
REVISED: 8/2007
REAFFIRMED: 5/2000

This Nebraska Board of Nursing advisory opinion is issued in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, [Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 \(2\)](#). As such, this advisory opinion is for informational purposes only and is non-binding. The advisory opinions define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing.

Arterial Lines

It is the opinion of the board that the removal of a femoral arterial catheter sheath is an acceptable practice for the registered nurse who is competent in the procedure.

It is the opinion of the Board that manipulation of a pulmonary artery catheter by an RN competent in the skill is appropriate when necessary to avoid adverse patient consequences. The nurse should use nursing judgment when making a decision to perform this activity.

It is the opinion of the Board that insertion of radial arterial lines is acceptable practice for the registered nurse who is competent and knowledgeable regarding the procedure and potential complications.

It is the opinion of the Board that it is acceptable practice for the RN to discontinue subclavian catheters and internal jugular catheters

It is the opinion of the Board that it is **NOT** acceptable for the nurse to remove an intra-aortic balloon pump catheter with a femoral artery access.

The decision to provide the various activities associated with arterial lines should be based upon self-assessment of competency, and following an assessment of the client and environment. A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical, and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills, and communicating the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.