



Nebraska Board of Nursing

ADVISORY OPINION

OPINION: RN & Airway Mgt.
ADOPTED: January, 1997
REVISED: 12/98, 5/00, 12/09
REAFFIRMED:

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.

RNs & Airway Management

It is the opinion of the Nebraska Board of Nursing that airway management including the use of adjunctive interventions is within the scope of practice for the RN. Airway management may include the use of sedative and neuro-muscular blockade agents within the parameters of specific and appropriate protocols.

It is also the opinion of the board that endotracheal intubation and/or insertion of a laryngeal mask airway in a critical situation is within the scope of practice of the RN. An RN may administer medications, such as Etomidate, Diprivan and neuromuscular blocker agents under the following conditions:

- Administration is under the direct supervision of a physician or CRNA;
- The RN is educationally prepared and clinically competent to perform the act in a safe, competent manner, and;
- The facility has a policy in place that allows the RN to administer the medications and provides for education and a mechanism to validate clinical competency.

The decision to provide airway management techniques 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.

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