

ADVISORY
OPINION

OPINION: Wound Care Techniques
ADOPTED: Apr. 2015
REVISED:
TEMPLATE REVISED: Aug. 2016
REAFFIRMED: Aug. 2016

Wound Care Techniques

It is the opinion of the Nebraska Board of Nursing that it is acceptable practice for licensed nurses to perform basic and advanced wound care techniques for a variety of wounds.

Wound Dressings & Wound Vacs

The application of wound dressings and wound vacs are in the scope of practice of the licensed nurse.

Wound Drains

The removal of wound drains is in the scope of practice of the licensed nurse.

Wound Debridement

Before initiating any type of wound debridement, the licensed nurse should ensure that a wound care specialist has assessed and evaluated the patient's ability for wound healing and any etiology creating limited/no blood flow to the area of the wound. It is appropriate practice for the licensed nurse to provide wound debridement based on this assessment, provided the nurse has the necessary clinical skills and knowledge.

Unna Boots

The application of Unna Boots are in the scope of practice of the appropriately trained licensed nurse.

Total Contact Casts

The application of a total contact cast for the treatment of diabetic ulcers is in the scope of practice of the appropriately trained licensed nurse.

The decision to provide any nursing care should be based upon self-assessment of competency, 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 communication of the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

Advisory Opinions

The Nebraska Board of Nursing may choose to issue advisory opinions in accordance with the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2216 (2). As such, advisory opinions are for informational purposes only and are non-binding. The advisory opinions may define acts, which in the opinion of the board, are or are not permitted in the practice of nursing. Nursing practice, however, is constantly evolving and advisory opinions can become outdated. Ultimately, Nebraska law and Board regulations require the licensee to provide nursing care services within parameters consistent with education, skills, experience, and current competence. Application of the [Decision-Making Model](#) is encouraged.

References

Arizona Board of Nursing: Wound care: Role of the LPN (2011). Retrieved from: https://www.azbn.gov/Documents/advisory_opinion/AO%20Wound%20Care-Role%20of%20LPN.pdf

Nebraska Nurse Practice Act: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§38-2210, 38-2211, 38-2212.

Shah, S. (2012). Clinical and economic benefits of healing diabetic foot ulcers with a rigid total contact cast. *Wounds*, 24(6), 152-159.

Wound Care Centers (n.d.). *Total Contact Casting*. Retrieved from: www.woundcarecenters.org.

Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (2011). *WOCN Society position statement: Pressure ulcer staging*. Retrieved from: www.wocn.org.