



Interpretive Guideline

Title: Registered Nurse's Role in the Care of Patients Receiving Intravitreal Injectable Medications

Guidelines for registered nurse administration of intravitreal injectable medications (Section 4723.01(B), ORC):

The scope of practice for registered nurses may include the administration of intravitreal injectable medications in circumstances where:

- The safety and well being of the patient can be ensured;
- There is a medical evaluation with a resulting established medical regimen;
- There is nursing documentation of a valid order by an authorized health care provider who possesses specific knowledge, skills and abilities in ophthalmic procedures that are actively incorporated into the health care provider's practice. The order may include nurse administration of topical or oral analgesics or topical anesthetics consistent with the registered nurse's scope of practice, education and competence;
- The initial dose of the medication is administered by the health care provider who is providing the order;
- There is a supportive clinical environment that contains appropriate monitoring capabilities;
- The necessary health care personnel and equipment to address complications are available and utilized at all times; and
- Infection control standards are utilized at all times.

The administration of intravitreal injectable medications may be within the scope of registered nursing practice if the following guidelines are observed:

- A. The registered nurse may execute the intravitreal injectable medication regimen with a valid authorized provider order that includes the volume and dosage of the specific medication to be administered, the length and gauge of the needle to be used to administer the injections, and the precise location on the eye where the injection is to be administered. An authorized provider is an individual who is authorized to practice in this state and is acting within the course of the individual's professional practice.

- B. In executing the nursing regimen, the registered nurse should communicate changes in patient status to the authorized provider directing and/or supervising the procedure and to other appropriate personnel.

The registered nurse should not independently select the medication or dosage to be administered during the procedure as this is prohibited by Section 4723.151 (A), ORC; or administer anesthetic injections to the eye prior to injecting the ordered medication as the implementation of an order for a local anesthetic injection eye may be harmful or potentially harmful to the patient. (Rule 4723-4-03, OAC)

Considerations in the registered nurse's administration of intravitreal injectable medications (Rule 4723-4-03, OAC):

The registered nurse providing care to patients receiving intravitreal injectable medication should maintain documentation of his/her acquisition of education, demonstrated competency, and other documentation that ensures practice is in compliance with the standards of safe nursing practice.

- A. The registered nurse's education and training should include, but is not limited to, the following that is learned through an organized, formal education program:
 - 1. Age-specific physiologic parameters that pertain to the patient's anatomy and physiology, including but not limited to:
 - a) External and internal structures of the eye;
 - b) Physiology of the eye
 - c) Vascular system and retinal blood vessels;
 - d) Nervous system and cranial nerves that affect the eye;
 - 2. Indications, contraindications, and potential complications related to intravitreal injectable medication administration;
 - 3. Infection control standards pertaining to intravitreal injectable medication administration and the care of the patient with ophthalmic disorders;
 - 4. Proper injection technique and skills;
 - 5. Measurement of intraocular pressure; and
 - 6. Monitoring for signs and symptoms of complications, e.g., endophthalmitis, retinal detachment, hemorrhage, etc.
- B. The competence of the registered nurse's knowledge and skill in the performance of administering intravitreal injectable medications should be validated by a physician, whose practice includes diagnosis and management of ophthalmic diseases, through a formalized process that includes precepted return demonstration by the registered nurse.

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

Section 4723.01(B) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) defines the scope of practice for the registered nurse. Rule 4723-4-03, OAC holds registered nurses responsible for maintaining and demonstrating current knowledge, skills, abilities, and competence in rendering nursing care within their scope of practice.

The licensed nurse must apply the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 4723, Ohio Revised Code) and rules regulating the practice of nursing (Chapters 4723-1 to 4723-27, Ohio Administrative Code) to the specific practice setting. Further, the licensed nurse must utilize good professional judgment in determining whether or not to engage in a given patient-care related activity, consistent with the law, rules, and guided by the Board's *Decision Making Model Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses*. It is critical to note that the law and rules require that the licensee provide nursing care only in circumstances that are consistent with the licensee's education, experience, knowledge, and demonstrated competency.

In this statement the Board does not announce a new rule but instead gives licensees specific guidelines regarding their obligations under existing law.

Licensees should review the following:

Section 4723.01 (B), ORC
Rule 4723-4-03, OAC
Rule 4723-4-06, OAC
Rule 4723-20, OAC

A complete copy of the Nurse Practice Act and the rules adopted thereunder is available for review and download from the Board of Nursing website: www.nursing.ohio.gov in the Law and Rules section.

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