



Interpretive Guideline

Title: Registered Nurse Role in Emergent Intubation Performed by an Authorized Provider

This Interpretive Guideline is not meant to include the provision of nursing care within a medical mobile transport unit.

Guidelines for Registered Nurse Administration of Medication(s) and Monitoring of a Patient During the Performance of Emergent Intubation (Section 4723.01(B), Ohio Revised Code (ORC)):

The scope of practice for registered nurses may include the administration of medication(s) as a part of an emergency intubation regimen as ordered by an authorized provider who is immediately present with the patient and is actively optimizing the patient's respiratory status. The administration of medication(s) during an emergent intubation and monitoring of the patient may be within the scope of registered nursing practice if the following guidelines are observed:

- A. The registered nurse who has acquired the necessary knowledge and competency, may administer medication(s) as a part of the emergent intubation regimen as ordered by an authorized provider who is immediately present with the patient and who would otherwise be administering the medication(s) if he/she were not actively engaged in inserting an artificial airway at the time that the medication(s) are to be administered. An authorized provider is a physician who is authorized to practice in this state or an APRN whose individual scope and facility practice privileges include the prescribing of medications for the performance of emergent intubation.
- B. In executing the emergent intubation regimen as ordered by the authorized provider, the registered nurse should:
 1. Monitor the patient's parameters including:
 - a. Hemodynamic measurements and status,
 - b. Respiratory parameters,
 - c. Mobility, and
 - d. Level of consciousness and perception of pain;
 2. Communicate changes in patient status to the authorized provider performing the procedure and to other members of the health care team as necessary;
 3. Implement, if necessary, emergency measures to optimize the

- patient's respiratory and circulatory status until other qualified healthcare personnel assume care of the patient; and
4. Maintain continuous intravenous access.

C. A registered nurse should not:

1. Independently select the medication(s) or dosage to be administered during emergent intubation;
2. Administer medications to induce deep sedation or anesthesia unrelated to emergent intubation.

Considerations in the registered nurse's administration of medication(s) for emergent intubation and monitoring of the patient (Rule 4723-4-03, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC))

- A. The registered nurse providing nursing care to patients during an emergent intubation 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.
- B. The registered nurse's education/training and demonstrated competence should include the following:
 1. Age-specific physiologic patient parameters including:
 - a. Oxygen delivery, transport and uptake;
 - b. Airway management;
 - c. Utilization of appropriate monitoring modalities, infusion devices, and emergency equipment; and
 - d. Cardiac arrhythmia recognition and intervention;
 2. Indications, contraindications, and potential complications related to emergent intubation;
 3. Pharmacology pertaining to age-appropriate and weight appropriate medications used for intubation and their respective reversal agents; and
 4. Registered nurse responsibilities prior to, during and following the procedure as defined in employer/institutional policy and approved emergency protocols.

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

Section 4723.01(B), 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 registered nurse must apply the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 4723, ORC) and rules regulating the practice of nursing (Chapters 4723-1 to 4723-27, OAC) to the specific practice setting. Further, the registered nurse must utilize good professional judgment in

determining whether or not to engage in a given patient-care related activity, consistent with the law and rules, and guided by the Board *RN and LPN Decision Making Model*. It is critical to note that the law and rules require that licensees provide nursing care only in circumstances that are consistent with their 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, ORC

Rule 4723-4-03, OAC

Rule 4723-4-06, OAC

Utilizing Interpretive Guidelines

A complete copy of the Nurse Practice Act and the rules adopted thereunder are available for review and download from the Board of Nursing website: www.nursing.ohio.gov on the Law and Rules page. All Interpretive Guidelines and the Utilizing Interpretive Guidelines document are available on the Practice RN & LPN page.

Approved: May 20, 2010

Reapproved: May 17, 2012

Revised: March 20, 2014

Revised: March 16, 2016

Reapproved: March 21, 2018

Reapproved: March 18, 2020