



## Removal of Chest Tubes

### POSITION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Board of Nursing is a consumer protection agency with the authority to regulate the practice of nursing provided for by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Title 73, Chapter 15.

A position statement is a scope of practice determination made by the Board, as to whether performance of an action by a licensed nurse is within acceptable standards. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, licensed nurses, and other interested parties in scope of practice determinations. Position statements of the Mississippi Board of Nursing are formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public through safe nursing practice.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The Registered Nurse may remove chest (pleural) tubes provided:

1. The Registered Nurse has documented training and competence in providing nursing care to patients with chest tubes, including the procedure for removal;
2. There is a healthcare providers order for the procedure;
3. The facility has policies and procedures addressing all aspects of the issue;
4. The licensed nurse practices according to generally accepted standards of practice; and
5. Necessary resources are readily available.

\*It is not within the LPN's scope of practice to remove chest (pleural) tubes.

Although the determination of medical procedures and the patient's medical status is a medical decision, the Registered Nurse has the right and the obligation to question orders and decisions which are contrary to acceptable standards and to refuse to participate in procedures which may result in harm to the patient.

### HISTORY

Original: 04/22/1993

Revised: 10/08/1997; 04/06/2000

Reviewed: 04/11/2025