Mississippi Board of Nursing
Regulating Nursing Practice www.msbn.state.ms.us

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AIR & SURFACE TRANSPORT NURSES

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. The Mississippi Board of Nursing (MSBON) issues this position statement to provide interpretive guidance regarding the roles, responsibilities, scope of practice, and competency expectations for Registered Nurses (RNs) practicing critical care in and surface transport settings. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, facilities, 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 FRAMEWORK

Air and Surface Transport Nursing: Scope of Practice and Requirements for Air Transport Nurses (RNs)

Registered Nurses functioning in transport settings are practicing in a specialized area of nursing that requires advanced knowledge, skills, and independent clinical judgment in environments where immediate physician presence may be unavailable. Transport RNs may provide advanced life support and critical care interventions consistent with their education, training, demonstrated competency, and approved medical protocols.

Within the transport environment, the RN may: - Perform comprehensive and ongoing advanced patient assessments; - Initiate and manage advanced life support interventions under medical control; - Manage complex airway and ventilatory support, including advanced airway devices and transport ventilators; - Administer high-risk and vasoactive medications per protocol; - Interpret cardiac rhythms and initiate appropriate interventions; - Manage invasive monitoring devices and critical care equipment; - Provide care to neonatal, pediatric, obstetric, adult, and geriatric populations as program-designated; - Communicate patient data and clinical decisions via telecommunication with medical control and receiving facilities.

Air and surface transport RNs must practice in accordance with the Mississippi Nurse Practice Act, MSBON rules, employer policies, and nationally recognized transport nursing standards.

STANDARDS OF CARE

Adhere to the qualifications, orientation, competencies, and education as noted by ASTNA **(**Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association)

Quality Assurance and Annual Competency Review

All nurses practicing in air and surface transport roles must undergo an **annual competency review** to ensure continued safe practice.

Components of Annual Review

- Verification of licensure and required certifications
- Review of completed continuing education
- Skills validation (simulation, skills lab, or supervised clinical practice)
- Review of high-risk/low-frequency procedures
- Chart audits and case reviews
- Performance evaluation and peer review

Responsibility

- **Primary Responsibility:** Employing agency or transport program
- **Oversight:** Nurse manager/director in collaboration with medical director
- **Documentation:** Maintained in the nurse's personnel and credentialing file

Timeline

- Annual competency review must be completed **annually**
- Attestation statement or documentation of the annual competency review must be done yearly (all documentation must be kept on file at the employing agency or transport program for audit purposes).

REFERENCES:

Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association. (n.d.). *Professional practice standards and guidelines for transport nursing*. https://www.astna.org

Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association. (n.d.). *Role of the registered nurse in the out-of-hospital environment* [Unpublished position paper]. Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association.

Arizona Department of Health Services. (n.d.). *Arizona Administrative Code: Emergency medical services—Ambulances (A.A.C. R9-25-26)*. https://www.azdhs.gov

National Emergency Nurses Association. (2019, October 11). *Core competencies for emergency and transport nurses*. https://www.nena.org

South Dakota Board of Nursing. (n.d.). *Advisory opinions and position statements*. https://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/advisoryopinions.aspx

HISTORY

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