



## **Manipulation and Removal of Pulmonary Artery Catheters**

### **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**

Under specified conditions, Registered Nurses may perform the advanced skills of manipulation and removal of pulmonary artery catheters provided stipulations are met. Manipulation may take place only when the catheter is in the spontaneous (permanent) wedge position or has migrated into the right ventricle. **The Registered Nurse may not advance the catheter under any circumstances.** Removal of the catheter by the Registered Nurse may occur when the physician has determined that it is no longer necessary to monitor pulmonary arterial pressures. The Registered Nurse may not remove the catheter if the patient has a transvenous pacemaker.

Stipulations/requirements are as follows:

1. The Registered Nurse must have documented training and competence in providing nursing care to patients with pulmonary artery catheters including manipulation and removal of the catheters;
2. The Registered Nurse must have documented competence related to algorithms. It is recommended that the Registered Nurse be CCRN and ACLS certified;
3. The Registered Nurse must complete an orientation and education training program which is specific to this area of practice and which includes documentation of competence in waveform recognition;
4. Manipulation and removal of the catheter may occur in critical care areas only;
5. The area in which these skills are performed must deal with pulmonary artery catheter inpatients on a regular basis;

6. Manipulation may occur only in emergency situations, only if the patient's physician is not immediately available and only after all other options have been exhausted;
7. Both manipulation and removal of the catheter require a physician's order that is specific to the individual situation;
8. The Registered Nurse must adhere to a detailed protocol, which has been approved by the institution; and
9. The following should be maintained by the institution permitting Registered Nurses to participate in these advanced skills: documentation related to personnel and setting requirements; protocol, an outline of the orientation and education/training program; and documentation of the Registered Nurse's competency.

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: 10/23/1986

Revised: 04/25/1990; 12/13/1990; 04/23/1993; 12/03/1997; 04/06/2000;  
08/08/2003

