



Wyoming State Board of Nursing

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**OPINION:** DELAYING CPR TO ASCERTAIN  
CODE STATUS

**APPROVED DATE:** April 9, 2014

**REVIEWED DATE:** July 2016

**REVISED DATE:** April 1, 2014

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:**

Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of \_X\_\_APRN \_X\_\_RN \_X\_\_LPN \_X\_\_CNA

**ADVISORY OPINION**  
**DELAYING CPR TO ASCERTAIN CODE STATUS**

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. §33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on Delaying CPR to Ascertain Code Status.

Pursuant to Wyo. Stat. §35-22-204:

- (a) Emergency medical service personnel, health care providers and health care facilities shall comply with a person's cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive that is apparent and immediately available. Any emergency medical service personnel, health care provider, health care facility or any other person who, in good faith, complies with a cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive which is perceived to be valid shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability or regulatory sanction for such compliance.
- (b) Compliance by emergency medical service personnel, health care providers or health care facilities with a cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive shall not affect the criminal prosecution of any person otherwise charged with the commission of a criminal act.
- (c) In the absence of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation directive, a person's consent to cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be presumed.

**In a healthcare setting, it is not appropriate to delay CPR. If there is a question as to the patient's resuscitation status, Wyoming law, as well as standard of care, dictates that CPR must be started while code status is determined. Agency policy should outline procedures for this circumstance.**