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OPINION: NURSE-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP
APPROVED DATE: January 2004
REVIEWED DATE: July 2016
REVISED DATE: July 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_ APN _X_ RN _X_ LPN _X_ CNA

ADVISORY OPINION NURSE-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 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 the Nurse-Client Relationship.

A nurse-client relationship generally begins when responsibility for nursing care of a client is accepted by the nurse. The nurse-client relationship is the foundation of nursing practice across all populations and cultures and in all practice settings. It is therapeutic and focuses on the needs of the client. It is based on trust, respect and professional intimacy, and it requires the appropriate use of authority. The nurse-client relationship is conducted within boundaries that separate professional and therapeutic behavior from non-professional and non-therapeutic behavior. A client's dignity, autonomy and privacy are kept safe within the nurse-client relationship. **Nurses are responsible for beginning, maintaining and ending a relationship with a client in a way that ensures the client's needs are first.**¹

REFERENCES

American Nurses Association Code of ethics. Retrieved from: <http://www.nursingworld.org>

¹College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia, *Boundaries in the Nurse-Client Relationship*. Retrieved at www.crnbc.ca.