



Wyoming State Board of Nursing
130 Hobbs Avenue, Suite B
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone (307) 777-7601 Fax (307) 777-3519
E-Mail: wsbn-info-licensing@wyo.gov
Home Page: <https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/>

**OPINION: CHEST TUBE, MEDIASTINAL TUBE
AND PLEURAL DRAIN REMOVAL**

APPROVED DATE: October 2007

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 APRN RN LPN CNA

**ADVISORY OPINION
CHEST TUBE, MEDIASTINAL TUBE AND PLEURAL DRAIN REMOVAL**

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 Chest Tube, Mediastinal Tube and Pleural Drain Removal.

WSBN acknowledges that it is within the scope of practice of the appropriately trained and competent RN to remove chest tubes, mediastinal tubes and pleural drains as ordered by the physician, APRN or PA if the following criteria are met:

- A. There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;**
- B. The nurse has completed training and demonstrated continuing competency;**
- C. The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency for each nurse;**
- D. The care is provided under the direction of a physician, APRN or PA; and**
- E. The patient's condition is assessed prior to, during, and after the procedure to current standard of practice.**

REFERENCES

Arizona State Board of Nursing.(2012).*Chest Tubes: Removal of Pleural and Mediastinal Chest Tubes*. Retrieved at:

http://www.azbn.gov/documents/advisory_opinion/AO%20Chest%20Tubes_%20Removal%20of%20Pleural%20&%20Mediastinal%20Chest%20Tubes.pdf

Briggs, D. (2009). Nursing care and management of patient with intrapleural drains. *Nursing Standard*. 24:21, page 47-55. Hunter, J.(2008). Chest drain removal. *Nursing Standard*. 22:45, page 35-38.

Mosby's Nursing Skills. (2010). Chest Tube Removal Module, Electronic Book, Elsevier. Wiegand, D. (Ed.). (2010). Procedure Manual for Critical Care, Chapter 22, Chest Tube Removal, American Association of Critical Care Nurses, 6th Edition, Saunders.