OPINION: PRACTICING BELOW THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF LICENSURE
APPROVED DATE: 4.12.16
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
Practice & Education Committee

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of ____ X APRN ____ X RN ____ X LPN ____ CNA

ADVISORY OPINION
PRACTICING BELOW THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF LICENSURE / RECOGNITION

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) receives frequent questions regarding practicing at a level below an individual’s highest level of licensure/recognition. The purpose of this opinion is to provide guidance to individuals choosing to work below their highest level of preparation.

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 Practicing below the highest level of licensure/recognition.

There are no Wyoming laws, rules or regulations that prohibit a nurse from being employed in a position below their highest level of licensure. However, there are challenges and potential complexities associated with this practice.

The nurse must follow the employment roles, titles, status, and position descriptions for which they have been hired. Yet, in an emergent situation, the nurse who fails to act prudently based on education preparation would be subject to disciplinary action by the WSBN. In addition, hours spent working in a lower level of licensure/recognition may not meet the employment competency requirements as outlined in the Administrative Rules and regulations of the Wyoming State Board of Nursing, Ch. 2, Sect. 12 (c) (i) (A).

REFERENCE