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OPINION: Auricular Acupuncture
APPROVED DATE: April 2017
REVIEWED DATE:
REVISED DATE:
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_ AP RN _X_ RN _LPN _CNA

ADVISORY OPINION AURICULAR ACUPUNCTURE

Intent of Advisory Opinion:

In accordance with W.S. 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 auricular acupuncture. The purpose of this opinion is to guide safe practice.

Introduction: For the purposes of this advisory opinion, auricular acupuncture (also known as battlefield acupuncture), is defined as a minimally invasive technique whereupon metal studs are placed **only** on the surface of the ear for pain control.ⁱ It is not medical or oriental acupuncture which requires extensive medical training. WSBN acknowledges that auricular acupuncture is within the scope of practice for the RN with additional education, skills, and demonstrated competency when facility and patient criteria are met.

Auricular acupuncture is a procedure with minimal potential risks, including, but not limited to: discomfort, bleeding, bruising, inflammation, infection, dizziness, nausea or light headedness after treatment.ⁱⁱ The RN has the right and responsibility to refuse to perform auricular acupuncture if they do not have adequate educational preparation or if they determine the patient or facility does not meet the requirements outlined in this Advisory Opinion.

ⁱ Military Medicine. <http://military.medicines.usg.gov/doi/pdf/10.7205/MILMED-D-13-00075>. MILITARY MEDICINE, Vol. 178, August 2013 Auricular Acupuncture Downloaded from publications.amsus.org: AMSUS - Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. IP: 159.238.054.008 on Jan 13, 2017.

ⁱⁱ Military Medicine. <http://military.medicines.usg.gov/doi/pdf/10.7205/MILMED-D-13-00075>. MILITARY MEDICINE, Vol. 178, August 2013 Auricular Acupuncture Downloaded from publications.amsus.org: AMSUS - Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. IP: 159.238.054.008 on Jan 13, 2017.