

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING**  
**Practice Advisory Opinion**

**RNs Advancing or Withdrawing Endoscopes and Colonoscopes**

The registered nurse is adequately prepared to and may advance or withdraw an endoscope and colonoscope when:

1. The RN has completed an appropriate education program including theory and techniques of advancing and withdrawing an endoscope and colonoscope. All requirements identified in NAC 632.224 and 225 are met and documented.
2. The procedure is performed when the RN is visualizing the lumen (e.g. teaching scope or video camera). The RN is not permitted to advance or withdraw a flexible sigmoidoscope without direct visualization.
3. The procedure is carried out under the direct supervision of a licensed physician.
4. The institution has a written policy identifying the procedure is acceptable practice for the registered nurse.
5. In addition to the gastroenterology nurse or Nursing Assistive Personnel (NAP) manipulating the endoscope, a second registered nurse must be present to monitor and manage the care of the sedated patient (SGNA, 2016).

**COMPETENCIES**

SGNA also asserts the following:

1. The gastroenterology nurse or NAP who assumes this role must have documented competency in:
  - a. Techniques/skills of endoscope manipulation;
  - b. Knowledge of complications associated with gastrointestinal endoscopy and their signs or symptoms; and
  - c. Appropriate interventions under the direction of the endoscopist.
2. It is essential that throughout the gastrointestinal endoscopy, the gastroenterology nurse or NAP manipulating the endoscope has a clear view of the entire lumen at all times and never uses force to advance the endoscope.
3. The gastroenterology nurse or NAP manipulating the endoscope must not replace the endoscopist or assume the responsibility of the endoscopic procedure. (SGNA, 2016).

### GENERAL BOARD AUTHORITY

The Nevada State Board of Nursing is authorized by NRS 632.120 and NAC 632.935 and NAC 632.940 to issue advisory opinions, declaratory orders and to determine the applicability of any statute or regulation to specific nursing acts in determining the scope of practice for nurses in Nevada.

### REFERENCES

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2016). Minimum Registered nurse staffing for patient care in the gastrointestinal endoscopy unit [Position Statement]. Chicago, IL: Author

Adopted: March 8, 1996.

Reviewed by the Nurse Practice Advisory Committee: February 6, 2018