

## **PRACTICE DECISION**

### **Epicardial Pacing Wire Removal**

The Nevada State Board of Nursing finds that it is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse to perform epicardial pacing wire removal.

This procedure is within the scope of nursing for a Registered Nurse provided the following guidelines are followed:

1. The nurse is competent to perform the procedure and has the documented and demonstrated knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the procedure pursuant to NAC [632.071](#), [632.224](#), and [632.225](#). Continued competency shall be documented annually and included clinical review with successful return demonstration.
2. There are facility policies and procedures and any required protocols in place for the nurse to perform the procedure. Protocols shall include specific guidelines for patient monitoring after epicardial pacing wire removal.
3. The nurse maintains accountability and responsibility for nursing care related to the procedure and follows the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse.
4. The procedure is performed interdependently. It must be based on an order by a provider, be performed under indirect supervision of a provider and per protocol. It is performed only in a licensed medical facility where a provider who has documented and demonstrated knowledge in the area of cardiovascular surgery is present within the facility and available for one hour following the procedure should complications arise
5. The RN has completed ACLS (for the adult patient) and PALS (for the pediatric patient).

### **References**

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Mahon, L. Bena, J.F. Morrison, S.M. and Albert, N. M. (2012) 'Cardiac Tamponade after Removal of Temporary Pacing Wires' *American Journal of Critical Care*, (6) 432-440.

Manion, P.A. (1993) 'Temporary Pacing in the Postoperative Cardiac Surgical Patient', *Critical Care Nurse*, 13 (2) 30-38.

Mishra, P.K. Lengyel, E. Lakshmanan, S and Luckraz, H. (2010) 'Temporary Epicardial Pacing Wire Removal: Is it an innocuous procedure?' *Interactive Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery* (11) 854-856.

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