



# Maximizing nurse utilization to work within license scope of practice: Establishing policies and procedures.

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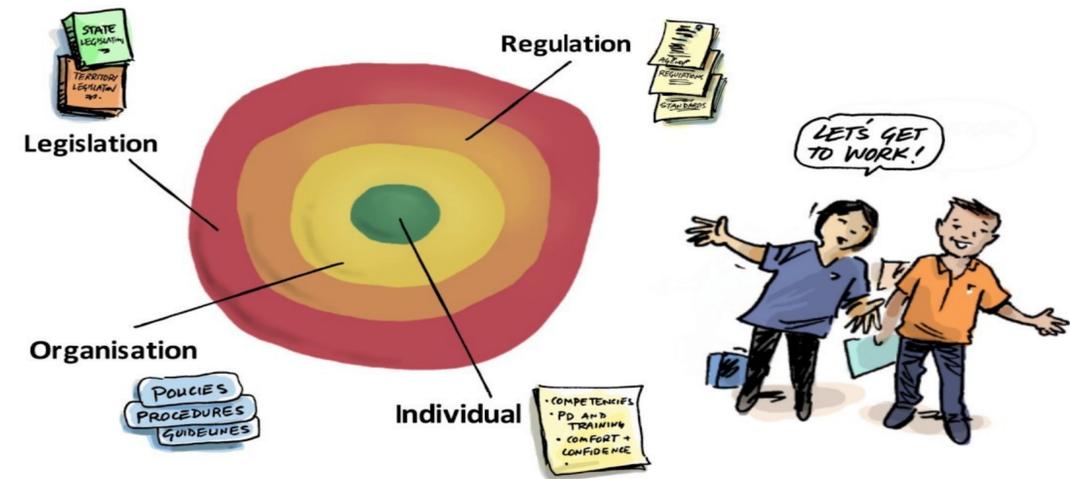
### Background & Significance

- **Ambulatory** nurse performing cautery versus pressure dressing
- When is this within the nurse's scope of practice.
- No existing organizational policies instruction for nurses performing cautery for best practice outcomes.
- New Nurses did not know to question the practice; appraise risks; and physicians had preferences/expectations.

### Massachusetts

- Registered Nurses as First Assistants at Surgery
- For the purposes of this advisory ruling, competencies are categorized as general, pre-operative phase, intra-operative phase, and post-operative phase
- Intra-operative: Provide hemostasis
- Post-operative: Provide wound care

### Making it all work together



### Methodology

- Obtain a copy of the scope of practice for the Massachusetts nurse
- Meet with other managers in dermatology
- Have a meeting with MD and medical director

### Objectives: Policy Development and Procedure Training

1. Create or find an existing training on cautery techniques; checklist; assessment tool
2. Create policy for nurses to perform cautery
3. Develop training guide and evaluation
4. Expand new nursing knowledge, skills, attitudes and medicine collaboration (KSA) Quality and Safety in Nursing Education (QSEN) Institute of Medicine (IOM)

### Device used

Is a Hyfrecator:



### Definitions

- **A Hyfrecator** is a low-powered medical apparatus used in electrosurgery on conscious patients, usually in an office setting. It is used to destroy tissue directly, and to stop bleeding during minor surgery.
- **Electrocautery** uses electrical current to heat a metal wire that is then applied to the target tissue in order to burn or coagulate the specific area of tissue. It is not used to pass the current through tissue, but rather is applied directly onto the targeted area of treatment. Using this technique, heat is passed through a resistant metal wire which is used as an electrode. This hot electrode is then placed directly onto the treatment area destroying that specific tissue. This use of electricity is typically applied in superficial situations encountered by dermatologists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, urologists, and related specialties.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE

BEST PRACTICE

COMPETENCE

POTENTIAL

KNOWLEDGE

ETHIC

PERFORMANCE

DEVELOPMENT

EXPERIENCE

VISION

NURSE MLB

### Obstacles

- The medical director not wanting anyone outside the department involved

### Support

- Other nurse leaders
- Upper management

### Outcome

- Keep nurses working at the top of their license
- Competency approved by medical director and management
- Complete staff training

### References

- Advisory rulings for the Board of Registration in Nursing. (2021). Retrieved 12 March 2021, from <https://www.mass.gov/lists/advisory-rulings-for-the-board-of-registration-in-nursing>
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- Holzheimer, C. and Lee, S., 2021. [online] Acha.org. Available at: <[https://www.acha.org/documents/Programs\\_Services/webhandouts\\_2016/TH1-177\\_Holzheimer.pdf](https://www.acha.org/documents/Programs_Services/webhandouts_2016/TH1-177_Holzheimer.pdf)> [Accessed 28 February 2021].