



Interpretive Guideline

Title: Registered Nurse Utilization of the Sapiens TCS or Other Comparable Device to Confirm Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) Tip Placement.

Guidelines for registered nurse (RN) utilization of the Sapiens TCS (device), or other comparable electrocardiogram (EKG) PICC tip confirmation device, to confirm the location of a PICC tip in accordance with a valid, authorized provider order:

Utilization of the device during the PICC insertion to confirm the PICC tip location for purposes of initiating intravenous therapy may be within the scope of registered nursing practice if the following guidelines are observed:

- A. The RN has a valid order from an authorized provider to place and confirm PICC tip location using the device. For purposes of this Interpretive Guideline, an authorized provider is an individual who is authorized to practice in the state of Ohio and is providing the order in the course of the individual's professional practice that includes IV therapy and PICC tip confirmation utilizing the device.
- B. The RN has acquired and documented knowledge, skills and competency in PICC placement and PICC tip location utilizing the device for purposes of initiating intravenous therapy consistent with the order.
- C. With a valid order that specifies the EKG p-wave changes to be observed during PICC insertion, the RN may, consistent with the order:
 1. Provide documentation of the patient's EKG p-wave changes observed and recorded at the time the RN places the PICC to the authorized provider to confirm that the PICC tip is in the appropriate location and to then authorize the initiation of IV therapy;

-OR-

 2. Identify and document the specific EKG p-wave parameters included in the authorized provider orders to be observed for purposes of confirming PICC tip location and initiating IV therapy.
- D. In executing a nursing regimen to utilize the device, the registered nurse should perform the following activities:

1. Determine and document the patient's baseline cardiac rhythm;
2. Identify and document through a cardiac rhythm strip recording that the patient has an identifiable "p-wave," and that the patient's cardiac rhythm does not preclude the use of the device for PICC tip location confirmation;
3. Notify the authorized provider of the presence of any patient parameter in which the use of the device is contraindicated. Contraindications include the presence of atrial fibrillation, or any cardiac rhythm in which a p-wave is absent or not identifiable, or other contraindications listed in the device manufacturer's published information; and
4. Place the PICC using the device only in clinical settings and environments where the patient's safety and well-being will be supported by use of required sterile techniques, availability of cardiac monitoring with real time EKG recordings, and the availability of additional health care personnel to respond to complications.

In utilizing the device to confirm PICC tip placement, the registered nurse should not:

1. Engage in activities that constitute the practice of medicine and surgery in Ohio;
2. Confirm PICC tip placement using the device without a valid order to place and confirm the PICC tip location and the p-wave parameters to be observed and documented for purposes of the confirmation; or
3. Utilize the device in circumstances where the use of the device is contraindicated.

Considerations in Use of the Device (Rule 4723-4-03, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC))

1. The RN who utilizes the device or other comparable EKG PICC tip confirmation device, to place and confirm PICC tip location should maintain documentation of his/her acquisition of education, demonstrated competency, and other documentation that ensures practice is guided by the employing facility/institutional policies and procedures, and the manufacturer's published information for the use of the device.

2. The RN's education/training and demonstrated competence should include the following:
 - a. Age specific cardiovascular anatomy and physiology as it pertains to PICC placement and verification of PICC tip location;
 - b. Indications and contraindications for the use of the device, e.g., atrial fibrillation, inconsistent or unidentifiable p-wave on EKG recording;
 - c. Techniques and procedures for PICC insertion and removal;
 - d. Identification of EKG p-wave morphology as it pertains to proper PICC tip placement;
 - e. Signs and symptoms of infusion therapy complications and actions to be taken in the event of complications;
 - f. Interpretation of cardiac rhythms and identification of rhythms that contraindicates the use of the device;
 - g. Proper use of the device consistent with provider orders and the manufacturer's published information;
 - h. Infection control standards pertaining to PICC insertion and placement, and the care of patients who have PICC lines; and
 - i. Nursing care of patients receiving IV therapy through PICC placement and maintenance including: observation and monitoring of EKG changes; applicable patient teaching; providing a safe environment and other nursing considerations that may also be established through institutional policy and consistent with Chapter 4723-4, OAC.

Accountability and Responsibility of Nurses

Section 4723.01(B) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) defines the scope of practice for the registered nurse. Rule 4723-4-03, OAC, holds registered nurses responsible for maintaining and demonstrating current knowledge, skills, abilities, and competence in rendering nursing care within their scope of practice.

The registered nurse must apply the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 4723, ORC) and rules regulating the practice of nursing (Chapters 4723-1 to 4723-27, OAC) to the specific practice setting. Further, the registered nurse must utilize good professional judgment in determining whether or not to engage in a given patient-care related activity, consistent with the law and rules, and guided by the Board *RN and LPN Decision Making Model*. It is critical to note that the law and rules require that the licensee provide nursing care only in circumstances that are consistent with their education, experience, knowledge, and demonstrated competency.

In this statement the Board does not announce a new policy but instead gives licensees specific instructions regarding their obligations under existing law and rules.

Licensees should review the following:

Section 4723.01(B), ORC
Section 4723.151, ORC
Rule 4723-4-03, OAC
Rule 4723-4-06, OAC
Rule 4723-4-07, OAC
July 17, 2012 Letter from the State Medical Board of Ohio (attached)
Utilizing Interpretive Guidelines

A complete copy of the Nurse Practice Act and the rules adopted thereunder are available for review and download from the Board of Nursing website at www.nursing.ohio.gov on the Law and Rules page. All Interpretive Guidelines and the Utilizing Interpretive Guidelines document are available on the Practice RN and LPN page.

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