Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Nursing
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POSITION STATEMENT
14-1
The Performance of Stapling, Suturing, or Application of Tissue Adhesive for Superficial Wound Closure by Registered Nurses in the Emergency Department

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing has determined that, registered nurses may perform stapling, suturing or application of tissue adhesive for **superficial wound closure, as delegated by the attending provider in the emergency department;** however, the suturing of muscle, nerve, fascia, or tendon is not within the scope of their practice.

Registered nurses who perform stapling, suturing or application of tissue adhesive for superficial wound closure are responsible for having adequate preparation and experience to perform such acts and shall have documented competency with performance of such procedures. The registered nurse is responsible for documentation of educational preparation and for maintaining continuing competency. The registered nurse should use the Decision-Making Model as a tool in determining if the task is within his or her scope of practice.

The Arkansas *Nurse Practice Act*, A.C.A. § 17-87-309 and *Rules*, Chapter 7, Section IV, A.6.f., holds all nurses individually responsible and accountable for the individual's acts based upon the nurse's education and experience. Each nurse must exercise professional and prudent judgment in determining whether the performance of a given act is within the scope of practice for which the nurse is both licensed and clinically competent to perform.

Adopted May 8, 2014