

Critical Care Specialty Practice Protocol - Advanced Level

Practice Settings: Hospitals, Critical/Intensive Care, Emergency Department and Cardiovascular Surgery

Requests for these skills are limited to the following CRNP certifications: Adult Acute Care, Pediatric Acute Care, Adult Care, Family, Adult Gerontology Acute Care and Pediatric.

Advanced Level Procedures

The Mid-Level Practitioner (CRNP/CNM) must achieve the required cases for initial approval on six Middle-Level procedures prior to requesting progression to Advanced Level. The procedures specifically associated with intra-operative cardiothoracic surgery, radial artery harvest and sternal closure, are not required for progression to Insertion of Subclavian Central Venous Lines at the Advanced Level.

After authorization by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ABME), the CRNP may perform supervised procedures and accumulate documentation to complete the initial approval process. Documentation of procedures for Initial Approval shall be submitted to the ABN and ABME for review. The CRNP and collaborating physician must maintain documentation of procedures performed annually and provide the documentation upon the request of either Board.

As with all aspects of nursing practice, the CRNP who lacks **current proficiency** is responsible and accountable for obtaining sufficient guidance, education or supervision as necessary for safe practice prior to performing a procedure authorized by the Specialty Protocol.

Skill	Initial	Annual
Thoracostomy tube insertion	30	30
Insertion of central venous line: subclavian, right heart (Physician must be present during the procedure)	50	50
Primary sternotomy (Cardiac Surgery)	50	50
Primary thoracotomy (Thoracic Surgery)	50	50

Parameters for Central Venous Lines:

Central line placement is approved as follows:

- (a) inserted for general venous access, including jugular,
- (b) intended duration of use is no longer than one month,

- (c) non-cuffed catheter no greater than 9 French in diameter,
- (d) percutaneous insertion without tunneling or burying a portion of the catheter in the subcutaneous tissue between the external insertion site and
- (e) the insertion into the venous lumen, inserted no farther than the superior vena cava at the innominate veins.