



Arizona State Board of Nursing

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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.

**OPINION: OB/GYN THERAPEUTIC
DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUNDS**
APPROVED DATE: 1/97
REVISED DATE: 11/02, 3/03, 03/07, 09/10
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of: RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION OB/GYN THERAPEUTIC DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUNDS

It is within the scope of practice of an RN to perform and interpret limited OB/GYN diagnostic ultrasound. It is not within the scope of an RN to perform Therapeutic Ultrasounds.

Therapeutic ultrasounds and diagnostic ultrasounds have been defined as follows:
Therapeutic ultrasound is an ultrasound procedure performed to promote wound healing, stimulate bone repair, and accelerate healing in tendon injuries and as a thrombolytic agent. Therapeutic and/or diagnostic ultrasound is an ultrasound procedure performed to obtain specific, limited information. Therapeutic and/or diagnostic exams in ante partum and intrapartum settings may include identification of fetal number, fetal presentation, presence or absence of fetal cardiac activity, localization of the placenta, assessment of amniotic fluid volume, and a biophysical profile. In gynecologic or reproductive settings, therapeutic and/or diagnostic exams may include assessments of uterine size, and position, endometrial thickness, presence and size of ovarian follicles.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer.
- B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program and have had supervised clinical practice to demonstrate competency are allowed to perform limited OB/GYN diagnostic ultrasound.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction and supervised clinical practice and continued competency is on file with the employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION to include:

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to the ultrasound-targeted system.
- B. Indications and contraindications of diagnostic ultrasound.
- C. Ultrasound physics and instrumentation.
- D. Clinical demonstration of ultrasonic imaging.
- E. Patient education.
- F. Interpretation.
- G. Understanding the implications for patient care from ultrasound findings.
- H. Nursing care responsibilities.

III. RATIONALE

RNs with proper education and training have the knowledge necessary to safely perform limited OB/GYN ultrasounds with minimal risk to patients.

IV. REFERENCES

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (2009). *Ultrasonography in pregnancy* (ACOG Practice Bulletin no. 101 Ed.). Washington, D.C.

American Society for Reproductive Medicine (2009). *Nurses performing ultrasound examinations in a gynecology/infertility setting* (Practice Committee Position Statement). Retrieved Aug 10, 2010, from www.asrm.org/Media/Practice/position_statement_on_nurses.pdf

Menihan, C. A., Stringer, M., & Yehuda, I. (2010). *Ultrasound examination performed by nurses in obstetrics, gynecologic, and reproductive medicine setting: clinical competencies and education guide* (3rd Ed.). : Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.