



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: AMNIOTOMY
DATE APPROVED: 11/88
REVISED DATE: 5/95, 07/02, 3/06, 11/09
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN
(SEE BELOW)

ADVISORY OPINION AMNIOTOMY

It is **NOT** within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN/LPN) to perform Amniotomy.

It is within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform Amniotomy by the application of a fetal scalp electrode through intact membranes in URGENT SITUATIONS when fetal well being is in question because of a non-reassuring or unreadable external fetal monitor tracing (See AZBN Advisory Opinion on Fetal Scalp Electrode).

I. RATIONALE

In the event of a prolapsed cord, the person performing the amniotomy must be able to promptly deliver the infant by emergency Cesarean Section. This is not within the scope of practice of an RN.

II. REFERENCES

Gilbert, E., & Harmon, J. (2003). *Manual of High Risk Pregnancy & Delivery* (3rd Ed.). Philadelphia: Mosby.

Simpson, K., & Creehan, P. (Eds.). (2008). AWHONN: *Perinatal nursing*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

James, D., Hahomed, K., Van Wijngaarden, W., & Hill, L., (2004). *Evidence-base obstetrics: a companion volume to high risk pregnancy* (2nd Ed.). Philadelphia: Saunders.