



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: FORMERLY PROSTAGLANDIN SUPPOSITORIES
DATE APPROVED: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 5/95; 11/02; 11/06, 1/10
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of: RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION CERVICAL RIPENING AGENTS AND PROSTAGLANDIN SUPPOSITORIES

It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse as directed by a licensed provider to administer cervical ripening agents for the induction of labor or when it has been determined that there is a fetal demise, if the following requirements are met:

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- B. Satisfactory completion of an instructional program including demonstrated clinical competency in the insertion of cervical ripening agents.
- C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instructional program and demonstration of clinical competency Advanced fetal heart rate monitoring and interpretation within the past 2 years.
- D. Documentation that the RN has demonstrated competence in monitoring the stages of labor and assisting with the delivery of the products of conception is on file with the employers.
- E. If the situation is one of fetal demise, the fetal demise is clearly documented in the medical record by the licensed provider prior to the administration of cervical ripening agents to initiate termination of pregnancy.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is to include but not be limited:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the pregnant female reproductive system.
- B. Indications and contraindications for the use of cervical ripening agents.
- C. Potential adverse reactions.
- D. Potential pregnancy complications.
- E. Nursing care responsibilities towards mother and fetus.

III. RATIONALE

Cervical Ripening plays an important role in the indication of labor; however comprehension of the pharmacological and mechanical agents used to drive the physiological changes to the cervix is essential because of the risk of complications. Registered Nurses with appropriate training can administer cervical ripening agents under the direction of a licensed provider. The purpose of this Advisory Opinion is to provide guidelines for safe practice.

IV. REFERENCES

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

Murray, M & Huelsmann, G. (2009). Labor and delivery nursing. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

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