



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**
APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:
DATE: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 5/95; 11/02; 11/06
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

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. Only RN's who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program including demonstrated clinical competency in the skill are allowed to insert cervical ripening agents.
 - C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction and demonstrated clinical competency in the skill is on file with the employer.
 - D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of advanced fetal monitoring interpretation is on file with the employer for RN's inserting cervical ripening agents in the third trimester of pregnancy.
 - E. 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.
 - F. 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 to:
 - 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.
 - F. Special nursing considerations in the case of fetal demise.

RATIONALE

Cervical Ripening plays an important role in initiating labor but caution needs to be used with fetal demise greater than 28 weeks, due to the risk of uterine rupture. 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.

REFERENCES

1. Misoprostol Use in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Outlook, Vol 21 No 4, April 2005
2. Induction of Labor Guidelines, National Government Clearinghouse 1998-2006, Modified 5-8-06, http://www.guidelines.gov/summary/pdf.aspx?doc_id=3960&stat=1&string=accessed 5-8-06
3. Wilson C. The nurse's role in misoprostol induction: a proposed protocol. J Obstet Gynecol Neonatal Nurs. 2000 Nov-Dec;29(6):574-83