



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: FETAL SCALP
ELECTRODES**
APPROVED: X
DATE: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 11/94, 11/01, 1/02, 1/06
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

ADVISORY OPINION FETAL SCALP ELECTRODES

It is within the Scope of Practice for a Registered Nurse to apply and remove spiral scalp electrodes to a fetus if the following requirements are met.

- I. General Requirements
 - A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
 - B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency's instructional program, and have had supervised clinical practice are allowed to apply electrodes.
 - C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction program and demonstrated clinical proficiency is on file with the employer.
- II. Course of Instruction is to Include:
 - A. Anatomy and physiology of the laboring patient
 - B. Recognition and evaluation of reassuring and non reassuring fetal heart rate patterns
 - C. Indications and contraindications
 - D. Potential adverse reactions
 - E. Technique for application and removal of scalp electrodes
 - F. Nursing care responsibilities

RATIONALE:

To provide guidelines for an RN to deliver safe care to a mother and fetus.

REFERENCES:

Procedure Update, Springhouse M.N. 9-14-1996

www.guideline.gov/summary/su (2004) Intrapartum Fetal Heart Rate Management.
NGC:003950

Schilling McCann RN, MSN, "Fetal Monitoring, Internal" Best Practices: A guide to Excellence in Nursing Care, (2003) : 562-568

www.awhonn.org/awhonn/?pg=873-2180-2890 Fetal Heart Monitoring Principles and Practices, CEU 18.2