



Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 North 7th Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85014-3655
Phone (602) 771-7800 Fax (602) 771-7888
E-Mail: arizona@azbn.gov
Home Page: <http://www.azbn.gov>

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.

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

**OPINION: FETAL SCALP
ELECTRODES**
APPROVED: X
DATE: 3/90
REVISED DATE: 11/94, 11/01, 1/02, 1/06, 11/09
**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 fetal scalp electrodes to a fetus if the membranes are ruptured and the following requirements are met.

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to apply 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 and the following requirements are met (See AZBN Advisory Opinion on Amniotomy).

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 includes but is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the laboring patient and fetus.
- B. Recognition and evaluation of reassuring and non reassuring fetal heart rate patterns.
- C. Indications and contraindications for application of fetal scalp electrodes.
- D. Potential adverse reactions for fetus related to fetal scalp electrodes.
- E. Technique for application and removal of scalp electrodes.
- F. Nursing care responsibilities to the mother and fetus before, during, and after the placement and removal of fetal scalp electrodes.

III. RATIONALE

To provide guidelines for an RN to deliver safe care to a mother and fetus during the process of labor and delivery and to delineate the different scope of practice for Registered Nurses regarding the situations of intact versus ruptured membranes.

IV. 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.

Women and Newborn Health Services, King Edward Memorial Hospital, 5.6.1 COROMETRIC FETAL SCALP ECECTRODE, Revised, May 19, 2009:

www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/development/manuals/O&G_guidelines/sectionb/5/5416.pdf