



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, 7/02, 3/06, 11/09,
5/14, 7/14
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

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 apply a fetal spiral electrode (FSE) through intact membranes in a labor and delivery setting in an urgent situation when fetal well-being is in question and the requirements (under I. General Requirements) are met. (See AZBN Advisory Opinion on Fetal Spiral Electrode).

I. General Requirements

- A. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and demonstrated clinical proficiency is on file with the employer.
- C. The patient must be in a labor and delivery setting.
- D. The Licensed Independent Provider (LIP) is advised and requested to perform on site evaluation.

II. Course of instruction

Course of instruction shall include but is not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology of the laboring woman and fetus.
- B. Recognition and evaluation of fetal heart rate patterns.
- C. Circumstances under which nurses may place FSE when membranes are intact
- D. Contraindications for FSE placement.
- E. Expected pre and post procedural assessments, interventions and communication with the primary health care provider

III. RATIONALE

Amniotomy is a procedure typically used to augment or stimulate labor and may result from placement of a fetal spiral electrode. Potential risks following amniotomy include prolapse of the umbilical cord, umbilical cord compression, and rupture of a vasa praevia. These risks require immediate interventions which are beyond the scope of practice of an RN.

IV. REFERENCES

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. (2009). AWHONN Position Statement: Amniotomy and Placement of Internal Fetal Spiral Electrode through Intact Membranes. *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing*. DOT:10.1111/j.1552-6909.2009.01076.x

Gilbert, E. (2010). *Manual of High Risk Pregnancy & Delivery* (5th ed.). St. Louis: Mosby.

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

Simpson, K., & Creehan, P. (2014). Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. *Perinatal nursing* (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health; Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.