



Doug Ducey
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

4747 N. 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.

OPINION: Formerly Prostaglandin suppositories
APPROVED: 3/90
DATE: 03/13
REVISED DATE: 05/95, 11/02, 11/06, 01/10, 3/13
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 to administer cervical ripening agents for 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.** Order from a license provider.
- B.** Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- C.** Satisfactory completion of an instructional program including demonstrated clinical competency in the insertion of cervical ripening agents on file.
- D.** The RN must possess knowledge of and demonstrate competence of initial and ongoing advanced fetal monitoring.
- E.** Documentation that the RN has satisfactorily completed electronic fetal monitoring competencies and is on file.
- 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

Didactic instruction can be provided through various modalities, including but not limited to classroom lectures, self-study programs, textbooks, periodicals, published research, DVDs/videotapes, formal electronic fetal monitor strip reviews and computer-assisted instruction. Acquisition of knowledge should be validated. Validation may be accomplished through a variety of means, including but not limited to objective testing, direct observation, and use of competence assessment tools. Course of instruction shall include, but is not limited to:

- A.** Anatomy and physiology of the pregnant female reproductive system.
- B.** Assessment of labor.

- C. Indications and contraindications for the use of cervical ripening agents.
- D. Pharmacology of cervical ripening agents.
- E. Potential pregnancy complications.
- F. Potential adverse reactions.
- G. Nursing care interventions and responsibilities for mother and fetus.

III. RATIONALE

Cervical ripening plays an important role in the induction of labor; however, comprehension of appropriate indications, pharmacological agents, expected results, potential risks and interventions is essential. Registered Nurses with appropriate training can administer cervical ripening agents under the direction of a licensed provider.

IV. REFERENCES

Nevada Board of Nursing. (2009). Nurse practice advisory. Retrieved from <http://nevadanursingboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/npacommFeb10-2009.pdf>

New Hampshire Board of Nursing. (2012). Clinical practice advisory. Retrieved from <http://www.nh.gov/nursing/general/documents/fall2012.pdf>

Rice-Simpson, K. & Creehan, P. (2008). *AWHONN Perinatal Nursing* (3rd ed.). Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer/ Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

South Dakota Board of Nursing. (1996). Advisory opinion. Retrieved from <http://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/title-opinion.aspx#Prostaglandin>

Stepp-Gilbert, E. (2011). *Manual of High Risk Pregnancy & Delivery* (5th ed.). St. Louis: Mosby Elsevier.