



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, 11/09
1/13, 7/14**

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION FETAL SPIRAL ELECTRODES

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to apply and remove fetal spiral 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 spiral electrode through intact membranes in urgent situations when fetal well being is in question or in the presence of an 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 instructional 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 fetal heart rate patterns.
- C. Indications and contraindications for application of fetal spiral electrodes.
- D. Potential adverse reactions for fetus related to fetal spiral electrodes.
- E. Technique for application and removal of spiral electrodes.
- F. Nursing care responsibilities to the mother and fetus before, during, and after the placement and removal of fetal spiral 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

- 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*. DOI:10.1111/j.1552-6909.2009.01076.x
- Gilbert, E., & Harmon, J, Manual of High Risk Pregnancy & Delivery (5th Ed). Philadelphia: Mosby.
- Simpson, K., & Creehan, P. (EDs.).(2014). Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. *Perinatal nursing (4th ed.)*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health;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 FETAL SCALP ECECTRODE, Revised, May, 2011:
www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/development/manuals/O&G_guidelines/sectionb/5/b5.6.1.pdf
- Miller, L., Miller, D., & tucker, S. (2013). Mosby's Pocket Guide to Fetal Monitoring (7th Ed). St. Louis: Elsevier Mosby.