Within the Scope of Practice of  X  RN  ___ LPN

**ADVISORY OPINION**

**ULTRASOUNDS: LIMITED OBSTETRIC, GYNECOLOGIC, AND REPRODUCTIVE**

It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse (RN) to perform and interpret limited obstetric, gynecologic, and reproductive ultrasound.

**I. DEFINITIONS**

A. Limited obstetric ultrasound: - the use of ultrasound equipment by an ultrasonographer or an RN with specialty training for the purpose of assessing amniotic volume, evaluation of fetal biophysical profile parameters, assisting with ultrasound guidance for amniocentesis, assisting with external cephalic version procedures, and determination of fetal cardiac activity, placenta location, and fetal presentation. Interpretation of assessment data collected during the limited obstetric ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a licensed independent practitioner (LIP)

B. Limited ultrasound in gynecologic and reproductive medicine setting: provides targeted rather than complete diagnostic information. It may include determination of the number of developing follicles, measurement of follicular growth, confirmation of early pregnancy, or evaluation of endometrial thickness and pattern. It may also be used as an adjunct to ultrasound-guided procedure, such as egg retrieval, cyst or follicular aspiration

C. Point-of-care ultrasound: ultrasound imaging performed during a patient encounter or procedure to enhance patient care. Ultrasound equipment has become more portable, affordable, and efficient; therefore, it is easier to utilize at the bedside. Point-of-care sonography is brought to the patient and performed by healthcare providers in real-time. With appropriate use, point-of-care ultrasound can make
assessment more efficient in some situations

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
   A. A written policy and procedure is maintained by the employer
   B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an agency’s requirements for an
      instructional program based on national standards and have had supervised clinical
      practice to demonstrate competency are allowed to perform limited
      obstetric/gynecologic (OB/GYN) diagnostic ultrasounds
   C. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the instruction and supervised clinical
      practice and continued competency is on file with the employer

III. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION to include, but is not limited to:
   A. Anatomy and physiology related to the ultrasound-targeted system
   B. Indications and contraindications of ultrasound
   C. Ultrasound physics and instrumentation
   D. Components of basic ultrasound survey for patient condition
   E. Clinical demonstration of ultrasonic imaging
   F. Patient education
   G. Interpretation
   H. Understanding the implications for patient care from ultrasound findings
   I. Nursing care responsibilities
   J. Related policies, procedures, protocols, and professional practice guidelines
   K. Documentation requirements

IV. RATIONALE
   RNs with proper education and training have the knowledge and skill necessary to safely
   perform limited OB/GYN ultrasounds with minimal risk to patients.

V. REFERENCES

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