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**OPINION: CERVICAL RIPENING AGENTS AND
PROSTAGLANDIN SUPPOSITORIES**
DATE APPROVED: 3/90
**REVISED DATE: 05/95, 11/02, 11/06, 01/10, 3/13
7/16, 7/19 9/23**
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE: SCOPE
OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN ___ LPN

ADVISORY OPINION CERVICAL RIPENING AGENTS AND PROSTAGLANDIN SUPPOSITORIES

It is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) 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 Practitioner (LP).
- B. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- C. Satisfactory completion of an instructional program(s), including initial and continuing demonstrated clinical competency is documented and on file with the employer for:
 1. Administration of cervical ripening agents
 2. Maternal – Fetal assessments and nursing interventions
 3. Electronic fetal monitoring course
- D. A LP capable of performing a cesarean delivery should be readily available.
- E. If the situation is one of fetal demise, the fetal demise has been confirmed by ultrasound and is clearly documented in the medical record by the LP.

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 maternal and fetal well-being.
- C. Establishment of at least 39 completed weeks of gestation if procedure is being performed without a medical indication.
- D. Documentation of cervical status, including Bishop Score.
- E. Documentation of pelvic examination.
- F. Assessment of labor status.
- G. Indications and contraindications for the use of cervical ripening agents.
- H. Pharmacology of cervical ripening agents.
- I. Potential pregnancy complications.
- J. Potential adverse reactions.
- K. Frequency of maternal and fetal assessments.
- L. Interventions of tachysystole.
- M. Interventions for indeterminate or abnormal fetal status.
- N. Criteria for provider notification.
- O. Criteria for bedside evaluation by the provider.

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. RNs with appropriate training can administer cervical ripening agents under the direction of a LP.

IV. REFERENCES

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