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OPINION: INTRAUTERINE PRESSURE CATHETERS
APPROVED DATE: 11/02
REVISED DATE: 3/03, 3/06, 11/09, 1/13, 7/16, 7/19 9/23
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE: SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION INTRAUTERINE PRESSURE CATHETERS (IUPC)

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) to insert an intrauterine pressure catheter (IUPC) if the following requirements are met:

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 may insert an IUPC.
- 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 pregnant woman, including the placenta, membranes, and fetal presentation.
- B. Indications for direct measurement of uterine contractions.
- C. Relative and absolute contraindications to direct, invasive intrauterine contraction monitoring.
- D. Recognition of and evaluation for inappropriate catheter placement.
- E. Potential adverse reactions.
- F. Technique for safe insertion of an intrauterine pressure catheter.
- G. Documentation.
- H. Post IUPC insertion nursing care responsibilities.

III. RATIONALE

The IUPC provides a direct method for measurement of uterine activity during labor and is the only objective method for measuring uterine intensity. This procedure can be performed by RNs with validated competency in order to provide assessment data on which to base interpretation and appropriate nursing actions.

REFERENCES

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. Fetal Heart Monitoring: Principles and Practices, 6th Ed. (2021). AWHONN Fetal Heart Monitoring program. Washington, D.C.: Author. Gibbs, J.D., & Miller, L.A. (2014). The EFM Workbook. Perinatal Risk Management and Education Services. Portland, OR: Author.

Miller, L, Miller, D, & Cypher, R. (2021). Mosby's Pocket Guide to Fetal Monitoring: A Multidisciplinary Approach (Nursing Pocket Guides), 9th Ed.

Other state boards with advisory opinions/position statements that support this advisory opinion:

Nevada board of nursing, Practice decision. Adopted September 1997, updated 2019.
[NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING \(nevadanursingboard.org\)](http://nevadanursingboard.org)

South Carolina Board of nursing, Advisory Opinion #18. (2022). Intrauterine Monitoring Devices (RN). [AO18.pdf \(sc.gov\)](http://sc.gov)

Pennsylvania Board of nursing:

Professional Standards of practice § 21.411:

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter21/subchapDtoc.html>