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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: ULTRASOUNDS:
LIMITED OBSTETRIC,
GYNECOLOGIC AND
REPRODUCTIVE
APPROVED DATE: 1/97
REVISED
DATE: 11/02, 3/03, 03/07, 09/10,
12/13, 7/2014, 1/18
ORIGINATING
COMMITTEE: SCOPE OF
PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

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

American Academy of Pediatrics & American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2017). *Guidelines for perinatal care* (8th ed.). Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics & American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). (2016). *Ultrasound examinations performed by nurses in obstetric, gynecologic, and reproductive medicine settings: Clinical competencies and education guide* (4th ed.) Washington, D.C.: Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.

Oklahoma Board of Nursing. (2016). Limited obstetric ultrasound and limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting examinations performed by registered nurse guidelines. Retrieved from <http://nursing.ok.gov/rnultra.pdf>

South Dakota Board of Nursing (2016). Advisory opinions, memo of understanding, position statements, and resolutions: Performance of limited diagnostic ultrasound by RNs. Retrieved from <http://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/title-opinion.aspx#Performance of Limited Diagnostic Ultrasound by RNs>