



Doug Ducey
Governor

Joey Ridenour
Executive Director

Arizona State Board of Nursing

1740 West Adams Street, Suite 2000

Phoenix AZ 85007

Phone (602) 771-7800

Home Page: <http://www.azbn.gov>

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: Formerly Prostaglandin suppositories

DATE APPROVED: 3/90

**REVISED DATE: 05/95, 11/02, 11/06, 01/10, 3/13
7/16, 7/19**

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 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 independent provider.
- B. Written policy and procedures are maintained by the employer.
- C. Satisfactory completion of an instructional program(s), including demonstrated clinical competency is documented and on file with the employer for:
 1. Insertion of cervical ripening agents
 2. Maternal – Fetal assessments and nursing interventions
 3. Electronic fetal monitoring course
- D. A physician 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 licensed provider.

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. Registered Nurses with appropriate training can administer cervical ripening agents under the direction of a licensed provider.

IV. REFERENCES

American Academy of Pediatrics, & American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2017). *Guidelines for Perinatal care* (8th ed.). Elk Grove, IL; Washington, D.C.: Authors.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2009, reaffirmed 2026). Induction of labor. Practice Bulletin No. 107. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 114. (2 Pt 1) 386-397. Doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e3181b48ef5.

Simpson, K. R., *Cervical Ripening and Induction and Augmentation of Labor*, 4th ec. (2013) Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, Washington D.C.

Simpson, Kathleen Rice & Creehan, Patricia. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (2013). *Perinatal Nursing* (4th ed.) Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Philadelphia

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

Nevada Board of Nursing. (2009). Nurse practice advisory. Retrieved from <http://nevadanursingboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Cervical-ripening-agents.pdf>

New Hampshire Board of Nursing. (2012). Clinical practice advisory. Retrieved from <http://www.oplc.nh.gov/nursing/documents/womens-health.pdf>

South Dakota Board of Nursing. (1996). Advisory opinion. Retrieved from <http://doh.sd.gov/boards/nursing/title-opinion.aspx#Prostaglandin>

Virginia Board of Nursing (1996), reviewed 2012). Retrieved from: <https://dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/guidelines/90-15.doc>

Wyoming Board of Nursing. (2014) Retrieved from: <https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/Resources/cervical%20ripening%agents.pdf>