

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
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Limited Obstetric Ultrasound Examinations Performed  
by Registered Nurse Guidelines

I. Definitions

- A. Limited Ultrasound - Limited ultrasound is the use of ultrasound equipment by an ultrasonographer registered by the American Registry of diagnostic Medical Sonographers or a Registered Nurse 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, determination of fetal cardiac activity, placenta location, and fetal presentation. Interpretation of assessment data collected during the limited ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider.
- B. Additional Levels of Ultrasound
1. *Basic Ultrasound* - Basic ultrasound includes the components of the limited ultrasound plus a survey of the fetal anatomy and evaluation for maternal pelvic masses. The basic ultrasound is performed by a Registered Sonographer. Interpretation of assessment data collected during the basic ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider.
  2. *Comprehensive Ultrasound* - Comprehensive ultrasound includes the components of the limited and basic ultrasounds and is indicated in the event a physiologically or anatomically defective fetus is suspected. The comprehensive ultrasound is performed by a Registered Sonographer. Interpretation of assessment data collected during the comprehensive ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider.

***These guidelines apply to the components of the limited ultrasound only.***

II. Qualifications

- A. The registered nurse is authorized by institutional policy to perform limited ultrasound upon authorization by any person authorized by state law to so prescribe.
- B. The registered nurse performing limited ultrasound shall evidence competency in performing limited ultrasound.
- C. The registered nurse performing limited ultrasound:
1. Has training beyond basic nursing preparation in the performing of limited ultrasound. This training shall include a minimum of 12 hours of didactic instruction and clinical practicum in the nursing practice competencies for limited ultrasound defined by The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses 1998 *Clinical Competencies and Education Guide; Gynecologic/Infertility Setting*;

2. Demonstrates the acquired knowledge of basic ultrasound physics and instrumentation, technical components of a uterine survey, assessment of fetal well-being parameters, patient education, and nursing accountability;
3. Has the ability to assess the components of the limited ultrasound examination and intervene based upon orders or institutional protocols in the event of complications.

### III. Management/Monitoring

The following information must be available to the registered nurse performing limited ultrasound in the facility where the limited ultrasound is performed:

- A. Education and competency guidelines;
- B. Method of documenting and communicating findings of the limited ultrasound examination;
- C. A procedure for appropriate patient education regarding indications for the procedure and informed consent;
- D. Availability of radiology staff within a specified time frame if adequate information is not obtained or a complication is identified.

### IV. Regulatory Authority

Title 59 O.S. §567.3a.2 & 3

### V. References:

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). (1998; Reviewed in 2004). Clinical competencies and education guide: Limited ultrasound examinations in obstetric and gynecologic/infertility settings. (2nd ed) Washington, D.C.: Author

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Ultrasonography in pregnancy. *ACOG Technical Bulletin*, No. 187. Washington, DC: Author; December 1993.

Arizona Board of Nursing. Advisory Opinion - Ultrasound: therapeutic & OB diagnostic. (1997; revised 2007). Retrieved September 19, 2008, from: [http://www.azbn.gov/Documents/advisory\\_opinion/AO%20Ultrasound%20Therapeutic%20and%20Ob.pdf](http://www.azbn.gov/Documents/advisory_opinion/AO%20Ultrasound%20Therapeutic%20and%20Ob.pdf)

Menihan, C.A. (2000). Limited ultrasound in nursing. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing*, Volume 29, Number 3, 326-330.

North Dakota Board of Nursing. Limited ultrasound examinations in obstetric and gynecologic/infertility settings. Practice Statement. (2000). Retrieved September 19, 2008, from: <http://www.ndbon.org/opinions/limited%20ultrasound%20exam.s.html>