

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

PRACTICE DECISION REGARDING RN SCOP OF PRACTICE IN INITIATING ADMINISTRATION OF VITAMIN K, ERYTHROMYCIN EYE OINTMENT, AND HEPATITIS B VACCINE FOR NEWBORNS BASED ON STANDING PROTOCOLS

The Nevada State Board of Nursing finds that it is within the scope of practice of a Registered Nurse to initiate the administration of vitamin K, erythromycin eye ointment, and hepatitis B vaccine for newborns based on standing protocols

Interest to the Consumer:

Timely administration of these medications is in the best interest of the newborn for the prophylaxis against gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum, to prevent vitamin K-dependent hemorrhagic disease of the newborn and prevent Perinatal Transmission of the Hepatitis B Virus.

There is documentation that these medications are never contraindicated and may be safely given to all newborns. Historically, there have been no adverse outcomes from administration of these medications.

These procedures are within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse provided the following guidelines are followed:

1. There are standing protocols and policies and procedures in place which have been approved by medicine and nursing within the facility where this procedure is practiced.
2. The nurse is competent to perform the procedure and has the documented and demonstrated knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the procedure pursuant to NAC 632.071, 632.224, and 632.225.
3. The nurse maintains accountability and responsibility for nursing care related to the procedure and follows the accepted standard of care which would be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse.

Nursing Practice Advisory Committee review: June 5, 2007.

Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: July 12, 2007