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NEVADA STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

NURSE PRACTICE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NSBN

REGARDING INTRAUTERINE INSEMINATION BY RNs AND APNs

Adopted as amended: 12/4/92

## INTRAUTERINE INSEMINATION

### A. CONSUMER SAFETY

Intrauterine insemination consists of the insertion of a catheter into the uterus via the cervix at speculum examination. After insertion of the catheter, prepared sperm samples are instilled. Patients may experience mild cramping and there is a risk of developing an infection, punctured uterus, and/or vasal/vagal response. This is considered an invasive procedure.

### B. PUBLIC INTEREST

Intrauterine insemination could offer the consumer the option of having an APN perform the procedure as opposed to having to visit the physician each time.

### C. PRACTITIONER SAFETY/COMPETENCY MECHANISMS

This activity is not included in the basic APN curriculum and does not meet the requirements of NAC 632.255.3.: "Any other act if: (a) the APN is certified to perform that act by an organization recognized by the Board; (b) the performance was taught in the program of education attended by the APN; (c) the performance of the act was taught in a comprehensive program of instruction successfully completed by the APN which included clinical experience."

### D. NURSING PROCESS

Intrauterine insemination falls within the nursing process for APNs provided appropriate education, standardized procedures and protocols, and competency mechanisms are established.

E. CURRENT TRENDS AND STANDARDS

Information received from the requestor indicates other states have considered intrauterine insemination to be within the scope of practice of RNs and APNs. Requested documentation was never submitted.

F. LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review from the three page bibliography sent by the requestor was conducted. None of the articles reviewed directly addressed the RN or APN performing intrauterine insemination.

G. STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES

Standardized procedures, protocols, and training do exist for the medical profession and would need to be adapted for the APN. APN protocol requirements are listed under 632.255 in the present regulations of the Board of Nursing.

H. IMPACT ON NEVADA/FISCAL IMPACT/MANPOWER IMPACT

Would increase availability and accessibility of health care practitioners and maintain or lower the health care costs.

I. PRACTITIONER AFFECTED

Advanced Practitioners of Nursing with expertise in Women's Health Care

J. TYPE OF FUNCTION/DETERMINATION ACTION

The performance of intrauterine insemination by an APN is determined to be an interdependent and dependent function since the procedures (and protocols) involved with the insertion of a catheter into the uterus would require physician support and intervention in the case of emergency situations such as vasal/vagal responses, infection, increased bleeding, or uterine wall perforation.

K. RECOMMENDATION TO NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

The Practice Committee recommends intrauterine insemination be included within the scope of practice of an APN <sup>with experience in women's health care</sup> provided additional education and competency mechanisms are established.

The Practice Committee recommends intrauterine insemination not be included in the scope of practice of the RN as this is a more complex procedure than is taught in the basic RN curriculum.

The Practice Committee recommends intrauterine insemination not be included in the scope of practice of the RN as the possibility of serious patient consequences exist if an emergency develops.

L. APPLICATION TO PAST DECISIONS

The Practice Act has addressed the length or types of catheters nurses may insert. A NSBN practice decision of 09/16/87 determined that registered nurses and licensed practical nurses could not insert intrauterine pressure catheters.

PE:cm  
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