

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Practice Decision

The role of the RN in Vaginal Speculum Examination

In December of 1993, The Nevada State Board of Nursing was asked to review the scope of practice of the Vaginal Speculum Examination practice decision. It was decided that vaginal speculum exams for the purpose of evaluating the vaginal canal and cervix and collecting specimens be included within the scope of the registered nurse guided that:

The registered nurse meets the requirements of NAC 632.225 to include:

1. It is within the facilities policy.
2. The registered nurse has been trained and educated to follow the written procedures and policies approved by the medical staff and employing agency.
3. Has acquired additional knowledge, skill, and ability through appropriate formal specialized training and education.
4. There is an order for the procedure.
5. There are standardized procedures and protocols established by the facility and/or overseeing licensed provider.
6. Maintains with employer evidence of original documentation and demonstration of acquired knowledge, skill, and ability.
7. Annual verification of the registered nurse's continued competency regarding above knowledge, skill, and ability through training and education with records of evaluations documenting satisfactory performance.
8. Procedure is performed for routine vaginal screenings (i.e. STD screenings) or routine pelvic/pap examination.
9. See also the role of the RN in Sexual Assault Examination Practice Decision.

References

Arizona State Board of Nursing. (2019). Advisory opinion vaginal speculum exam and specimen collection. Retrieved from <https://www.azbn.gov/sites/default/files/advisory-opinions/new/AO%20Vaginal%20Speculum%20Exam%20and%20Specimen%20Collection%20rev.09.2019.pdf>

Simpson, K. R. & Creehan, P. A. (Eds.). (2014). Perinatal nursing (4th ed.). Lippincott Williams & Wilkins: New York.

Washington State Department of Health. (2020). Obstetrical, gynecological, and reproductive care. Retrieved from

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/NursingCommission/PracticeInformation/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/RegisteredNurse/u32545q/766167696E616C206578616D>

Reviewed by Nursing Practice Advisory Committee: 12/2/2020

Approved by Board: January 19, 2022