

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
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Limited Obstetric Ultrasound and Limited Ultrasound in a Reproductive Medicine Setting  
Examinations Performed by Registered Nurse Guidelines

I. Definitions

A. Limited Ultrasounds

1. Limited Obstetric Ultrasound - Limited obstetric 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 obstetric ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider [AWHONN, 2010].
2. Limited Ultrasound in Reproductive Medicine Setting – Limited Ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting provides targeted rather than complete diagnostic information. It may include determination of the number of developing follicles, measurement of follicular growth, confirmation of early pregnancy, or evaluation of endometrial thickness and pattern. It may also be used as an adjunct to ultrasound-guided procedure, such as egg retrieval, cyst or follicular aspiration. Ideally, before a limited ultrasound examination is performed in a reproductive medicine setting, the woman should have had a comprehensive pelvic ultrasound examination within the preceding 6 months to exclude gynecologic pathology [AWHONN].

B. Additional Levels of Ultrasound

1. *Standard Ultrasound* - Standard ultrasound includes the components of the limited obstetric ultrasound plus a survey of the fetal anatomy and evaluation for maternal pelvic masses. The standard ultrasound is performed by a Registered Sonographer. Interpretation of assessment data collected during the standard ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider [AWHONN].
2. Specialized Ultrasound- Specialized ultrasound includes the components of the limited obstetric and standard ultrasounds and is indicated in the event a physiologically or anatomically defective fetus is suspected. The specialized ultrasound is performed by a Registered Sonographer.

Interpretation of assessment data collected during the specialized ultrasound and diagnosis is made by a qualified health care provider [AWHONN].

***These guidelines apply to the components of the limited obstetric ultrasound and ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting only.***

## II. Qualifications

- A. The Registered Nurse is authorized by institutional policy to perform limited obstetric ultrasound and/or limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting upon authorization by any person authorized by state law to so prescribe.
- B. The Registered Nurse performing limited obstetric ultrasound and/or limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting shall evidence competency in performing limited obstetric ultrasound and and/or limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting .
- C. The Registered Nurse performing limited obstetric ultrasound:
  - 1. Has training beyond basic nursing preparation in the performing of limited obstetric ultrasound. This training shall include a minimum of 8 hours of didactic instruction and clinical practicum in the nursing practice competencies for limited obstetric ultrasound defined by The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses *2010 Ultrasound Examinations Performed by Nurses in Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Reproductive Medicine Settings: Clinical Competencies and Education Guide*;
  - 2. Demonstrates the acquired knowledge of basic obstetric 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 obstetric ultrasound examination and intervene based upon orders or institutional protocols in the event of complications.
- D. The Registered Nurse performing limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting:
  - 1. Has training beyond basic nursing preparation in the performing of limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting. This training shall include a minimum of 8 hours of didactic instruction and clinical practicum in the nursing competencies for limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting defined by The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses *2010 Ultrasound Examinations Performed by Nurses in Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Reproductive Medicine Settings: Clinical Competencies and Educational Guide*;
  - 2. Demonstrates the acquired knowledge of limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting including physics and instrumentation, technical components of a uterine survey to evaluate the response of a woman to gonadotropin therapy.

3. Has skills to obtain a clear image and interpret all components of the examination performed. If the study is technically difficult, abnormalities are noted, or the information gained is not conclusive, consultation with the primary care provider is recommended.

### III. Management/Monitoring

The following information must be available to the Registered Nurse performing limited obstetric ultrasound and/or limited ultrasound in a reproductive medicine setting in the facility where the ultrasound is performed:

- A. Education and competency guidelines;
- B. Method of documenting and communicating findings of the 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:

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine. (2014). Limited obstetrical ultrasound official statement. Retrieved May 14, 2014, from:

<http://www.aium.org/resources/statements.aspx>

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). (2010). Ultrasound examinations performed by nurses in obstetric, gynecologic, and reproductive medicine settings: Clinical competencies and education guide. (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) .Washington, D.C.: Author

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (February 2009, reaffirmed 2011). Ultrasonography in Pregnancy. ACOG Practice Bulletin, No. 101, Washington, D.C.

Arizona Board of Nursing. Advisory Opinion - Ultrasound: therapeutic & OB diagnostic. (1997; revised 2010). Retrieved May 14, 2014, 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. (2010). Ultrasound for nurses in women's health care: Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive technologies. Retrieved May 14, 2014, from:

<http://www.perinatalproductions.com/UltrasoundTOC.html>

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