



Application of Fundal and Suprapubic Pressure by the Registered Nurse

POSITION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Board of nursing is a consumer protection agency with the authority to regulate the practice of nursing provided for by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Title 73, Chapter 15.

A position statement is a scope of practice determination made by the Board, as to whether performance of an action by a licensed nurse is within acceptable standards. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, licensed nurses, and other interested parties in scope of practice determinations. Position statements of the Mississippi Board of Nursing are formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public through safe nursing practice.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Under specified conditions, Registered Nurses may perform the advanced skills of fundal pressure and suprapubic pressure provided stipulations are met. The Registered Nurse may apply suprapubic pressure during the vaginal delivery of a fetus with suspected shoulder dystocia or breech delivery. The labor and delivery Registered Nurse may apply fundal pressure for the purposes of preventing the upward displacement of the presenting part during fetal scalp electrode placement and fetal scalp pH sampling and during an amniotomy when the vertex presentation is not ballotable. A Registered Nurse who is scrubbed and is a member of the surgical team, may apply fundal pressure during a Cesarean Section.

The Registered Nurse **MAY NOT** apply fundal pressure during the second stage of labor including but not limited to the clinical circumstances of the presence of non-reassuring fetal heart rate pattern or in instances of shoulder dystocia until such time as the shoulder is released from the pubic symphysis.

Stipulations/requirements are as follows:

1. The Registered Nurse is trained and competent in the procedures. The training should all components of a formal certification course to include but not be limited to instruction in the application of and rationale for the procedures and how the procedures differ;
2. Registered Nurse's training and competence are documented initially and on an ongoing basis;
3. The Registered Nurse practices according to generally accepted standards of care;

4. A licensed physician or certified registered nurse midwife is present in the room and directing the procedure;
5. The area in which these skills are performed must deal with labor and delivery patients on a regular basis;
6. All necessary resources are available;
7. The facility/agency has detailed policies and procedures in place addressing all aspects of this issue to include, but not limited to: specific guidelines/criteria for candidates for this procedures and a mechanism of data collection for quality control; and
8. The following should be maintained by the institution permitting Registered Nurses to participate in these advanced skills: documentation related to personnel and setting requirements; protocol, an outline of the orientation and education/training program; and documentation of the Registered Nurse's competency.

Although the determination of medical procedures and the patient's medical status is a medical decision, the Registered Nurse has the right and the obligation to question orders and decisions which are contrary to acceptable standards and to refuse to participate in procedures which may result in harm to the patient.

HISTORY

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