



Wyoming State Board of Nursing

130 Hobbs Avenue, Suite B

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone (307) 777-7601 Fax (307) 777-3519

E-Mail: wsbn-info-licensing@wyo.gov

Home Page: <https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/>

OPINION: DETERMINATION OF RUPTURED MEMBRANES

APPROVED DATE: October 2006

REVIEWED DATE: July 2016

REVISED DATE: July 2014

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:

Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of APRN RN LPN CNA

**ADVISORY OPINION
DETERMINATION OF RUPTURED MEMBRANES**

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on Exam for Rupture of Membranes.

Sterile Speculum Exam to Determine Ruptured Membranes

It is within the scope of practice of an appropriately trained and competent RN to perform sterile speculum exams to determine rupture of membranes in a pregnant client as ordered by the physician, APRN or PA if the following criteria are met:

- A. There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;**
- B. The nurse has completed training and demonstrated continuing competency;**
- C. The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency for each nurse;**
- D. The care is provided under the direction of a physician, APRN or PA; and**
- E. The patient's condition is assessed prior to, during, and after the procedure to current standard of practice.**

REFERENCES

Maine State Board of Nursing. (1997). Retrieved from:

http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/questions/questions_rn.html#vagexam.