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QUESTION: **Is it within the role and scope of practice of the registered nurse (RN) to apply internal fetal electrodes, and to insert intrauterine monitoring devices without a physician present, and if so, may the RN perform amniotomy to apply the internal components?**

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that the application of internal scalp electrodes and the insertion of intrauterine monitoring devices are within the role and scope of practice of the RN and require "special education and training." The Board recommends that the nursing department develop appropriate policies, procedures, and standing orders which specify qualifications, special education and training and specific patient situations whereby the RN may apply internal electronic fetal and intrauterine monitoring components. Recognizing these responsibilities are an additional act for the RN, the Board recommends that the nursing department complete a comprehensive literature review and consult with clinical experts and legal counsel prior to implementation. If implementation is in order, then appropriate policies, procedures, and standing orders should be developed which specify required special education and training. This special education and training should include documented safety practices and other didactic material as well as clinical skill competency components. The agency policies and procedures should address how the agency will assure a physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse authorizes the insertion of intrauterine monitoring devices.

The nursing department is advised to obtain patient specific written medical orders which indicate physiological parameters to be monitored and reported to the physician. Amniotomy for the purpose of inserting electrodes or intrauterine monitoring devices is at NO time within the role and scope of the RN.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.