

OB Triage: Limited Ultrasound Testing by CNM/RN

Guidelines to allow the Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) or Registered Nurse (RN) to do limited obstetrical ultrasounds within OB Triage.

Guidelines:

1. Setting: Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) Clinic, OB Triage, Labor and Delivery.
2. Supervision: Board certified/eligible OB/GYN physician with current privileges.
3. Patient condition or situation: Indication for antenatal testing; postdates, unsure presentation, amniotic fluid evaluation, fetal viability and need for biophysical profile.

Protocol:

1. A CNM or RN may perform limited ultrasounds on pregnant women as the need of the MFM or OB/GYN service indicates.
2. Patients can be referred by Family Medicine and Women's Clinic.
3. Trans-abdominal limited ultrasound to assess: presentation, viability, amniotic fluid index and biophysical profile.
4. OB/GYN will be readily available by beeper or phone.
5. Explain procedure and implications of findings as well as limitations of procedure.
6. Document the procedure on the patient's prenatal record as well as findings.
7. Competency:
 - Education: CNM - completion of accredited nurse-midwifery education program; RN - completion of an accredited limited obstetric ultrasound course.
 - Experience: Proctoring period, total of 50 scans to gain competency.
 - Other: 10 –15 scans with the preceptor before doing ultrasounds alone.
 - Initial Evaluation: first 50 scans co-signed by proctoring physician.
 - Ongoing evaluation: annually or as deemed necessary by supervisor/physicians.

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