10A NCAC 14E .0311 is proposed for amendment as follows:

10A NCAC 14E .0311  SURGICAL SERVICES

(a) Facilities. Clinics. The operating procedure room shall be maintained exclusively for surgical abortion procedures and shall be so designed and maintained to provide an atmosphere free of contamination by pathogenic organisms. The facility clinic shall establish procedures for infection control and universal precautions.

(b) Tissue Examination:

(1) The physician performing the abortion is responsible for examination of all products of conception (P.O.C.) prior to patient discharge. Such examination shall note specifically the presence or absence of chorionic villi and villi, fetal parts, or the amniotic sac. The results of the examination shall be recorded in the patient's medical record.

(2) The facility shall have written procedures, supplies and equipment available for gross and microscopic evaluation of abortion specimens. If placental or fetal tissue is not identified by gross examination, a microscopic examination must be done on the P.O.C. In cases where the microscopic evaluation is negative for chorionic villi and fetal parts, or the weight of the P.O.C. falls substantially below the appropriate weight range for the fetal age, a microscopic examination by a board certified or board eligible pathologist shall be done on the P.O.C.

(3) The results of this examination, the findings of further patient evaluation and any subsequent treatment must be recorded in the patient's medical record.

(2) Based on gestational age, if adequate tissue is not obtained, ectopic pregnancy or an incomplete procedure shall be considered and evaluated by the physician performing the procedure.

(4) The facility clinic shall establish procedures for obtaining, identifying, storing and transporting specimens.

(5) The facility shall establish a method for follow-up of patients on whom no villi are seen.

History Note:  Authority G.S. 14-45.1(a); 143B-10; Eff. February 1, 1976; Readopted Eff. December 19, 1977; Amended Eff. April 1, 2015; July 1, 1994; December 1, 1989; November 1, 1984; September 1, 1984.