

10A NCAC 14E .0313 POST-OPERATIVE CARE

- (a) A patient whose pregnancy is terminated on an ambulatory basis shall be observed in the clinic to ensure that no post-operative complications are present. Thereafter, patients may be discharged according to a physician's order and the clinic's protocols.
- (b) Any patient having an adverse condition or complication known or suspected to have occurred during or after the performance of the abortion shall be transferred to a hospital for evaluation or admission.
- (c) The following criteria shall be documented prior to discharge:
 - (1) the patient shall be ambulatory with a stable blood pressure and pulse; and
 - (2) bleeding and pain shall be controlled.
- (d) Written instructions shall be issued to all patients in accordance with the orders of the physician in charge of the abortion procedure and shall include the following:
 - (1) symptoms and complications to be looked for; and
 - (2) a dedicated telephone number to be used by the patients should any complication occur or question arise. This number shall be answered by a person 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- (e) The clinic shall have a defined protocol for triaging post-operative calls and complications. This protocol shall establish a pathway for physician contact to ensure ongoing care of complications that the operating physician is incapable of managing.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 14-45.1(a); 143B-10;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Readopted Eff. December 19, 1977;
Amended Eff. October 1, 2015; December 24, 1979.*