Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology
Nurse Practitioner Protocol

I  Background - Scope of Practice
Nurse practitioners employed by Hospital practice under a collaborative practice agreement which permits them to provide primary and specialty care in collaboration with attending physicians. This document outlines the general responsibilities, as well as the general and specialty-specific practice guidelines for nurse practitioners.

II  Qualifications
The nurse practitioner will:
   a. Maintain licensure as a Nurse Practitioner with prescriptive privileges in Rhode Island;
   b. Hold National certification as a clinical nurse specialist/nurse practitioner;
      Maintain malpractice insurance in an amount recommended by the Medical Staff Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

III. General Responsibilities.
   a. Adhere to national, regional, and institutional standards of care for Nurse Practitioners
   b. Develop and maintain professional skills in general women’s health care and/or specific to the subspecialty area in which they work;
   c. Serve as a clinical resource to enhance the development of other staff members;
   d. Attend and participate in meetings and conferences pertaining to patient care needs and services;
   e. Participate in clinical research studies as appropriate;
   f. Participate in current community outreach and in the planning and development of new services;
      Preserve and protect patients' rights of confidentiality.

IV. General Practice Guidelines
   * The nurse practitioner will:
      * Perform clinical assessments (history and physical examinations);
      * Perform psychosocial assessments;
      * Assess medical data and recommend immediate, intermediate, and long-term plan of care;
      * Order laboratory tests and diagnostic procedures;
      * Prescribe medications listed on the Women and Infants' Nurse Practitioner Formulary and/or the medications specific to the sub-specialty practice (see Appendices);
      Perform diagnostic procedures and administer treatments commonly performed in the assessment and treatment of patients (see Appendices);
Consult with a collaborating physician on a case-by-case basis for difficult, complicated, or problem cases, or for any cases deemed appropriate by either the nurse practitioner or the collaborating physician;

- Respond to referrals and consultations from other physicians, practices, or clinics;
- Obtain consults from other medical specialties when appropriate;
- Order inpatient medications, laboratory tests, and procedures when appropriate (this applies only to those NPs with inpatient responsibilities. In such cases, the NP must be under the supervision of a collaborating physician, who must co-sign the NP's order within 24 hours);
- Utilize current hospital practice guidelines and other authoritative resources.

V. Specialty Practice Guidelines
Sub-specialty clinical areas permit nurse practitioners to perform additional tests and procedures in collaboration with physicians. These are outlined in the appendices:

Appendix A: Urogynecology
Appendix B: Triage

VI. Authority
This Collaborative Practice Agreement is in accordance with the delineation of privileges approved by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Medical Staff and the
of Trustees