### **Model Policies**



Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Fetal Monitoring Policy. Includes procedure for intermittent auscultation and exclusion criteria. Used with permission.

# TITLE: FETAL MONITORING/UTERINE CONTRACTION ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for fetal monitoring and uterine contraction assessment and documentation in the Birth Center.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY:** To provide guidelines for the trained registered nurse to initiate, assess and document the appropriate monitoring of the fetal heart rate (FHR) and uterine contraction (UC) patterns.

To provide standardized interpretation and communication regarding FHR and UC data based on criteria set forth by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). (See Appendix C.)

To utilize informed consent and clinical judgment to provide a level of monitoring customized to the patient's clinical condition and personal preferences, with the goal of achieving a delivery without significant acidemia or unnecessary introgenic interventions. It is the policy of SFGH Birth Center that women with low risk pregnancies have the choice to be intermittently auscultated or continuously monitored.

To provide guidelines for the registered nurse to utilize FHR and UC monitoring and assessment to support the overall goals of supporting maternal coping and labor progress, maximizing uterine and umbilical blood flow, maximizing oxygenation, and maintaining appropriate uterine activity.

#### **Indications**

(See Appendix A.)

#### 1. Admission / Triage monitoring:

Upon admission or presentation to triage in the Birth Center, generally all patients greater than 24 weeks gestation are monitored for a minimum of 20 minutes. The tracing should be continuous until Category I (if greater than 28 weeks). Notify provider if not Category I after 40 minutes and/or variant FHR patterns are noted. If the patient has been ambulating for a period of time (2 hours or more), another 20 minute tracing of the fetal heart rate and uterine activity should be completed prior to discharge from triage. If patient is laboring, accelerations may not be required to determine Category I tracing.

See Antenatal Testing Center policy for antenatal testing patients in triage.



Patients less than 24 weeks may have a Doppler check for presence and rate of fetal heart tones

Patient's refusal to be monitored must be documented.

#### 2. Antepartum monitoring (patient not in labor):

Antepartum fetal monitoring should be individualized for each patient dependent on condition and risk factors

3. Labor monitoring: Intermittent Auscultation (IA vs. Continuous EFM (CEFM))
The two methods of fetal heart rate monitoring accepted by the American College of
Obstetrician Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American College of Nurse Midwives
(ACNM) are: intermittent auscultation (IA) and continuous electronic fetal monitoring
(CEFM).

There is widespread support for the use of continuous EFM for high-risk women, while IA is the preferred method of monitoring for low-risk laboring women. There have been many studies comparing IA with EFM among low-risk pregnant women. There are advantages and disadvantages with the use of either method. Some of the differences include:

- 1 Women who were monitored by CEFM had a 1.66 times increased risk of Caesarean birth.
- 2 Women who were monitored by CEFM had a 1.2 times increased risk of operative vaginal birth
- Women who were monitored by CEFM had a 50% decrease in neonatal seizures as compared with those monitored with IA.
- 4 Case-control studies have shown correlation of EFM abnormalities with umbilical artery base excess. Our institution now transfers these infants to UCSF as part of the "head cooling" protocol.
- 5 Meta-analysis of the randomized controlled trials comparing EFM with IA have found no effect on the incidence of cerebral palsy or perinatal death.

#### Advantages and Disadvantages of CEFM and IA

#### **Intermittent Auscultation**

- 1. IA helps to normalize the birth process by allowing freedom of movement and reducing the use of technology
- 2. IA has been shown to reduce Cesarean and operative vaginal birth rates
- 3. IA increases the amount of time that women receive hands-on bedside care and support For nurses not accustomed to IA, IA can seem like more work or may seem more intrusive Some nurses may not feel comfortable performing IA if they have more than one patient
- 4. The literature shows an increase in neonatal seizures for babies monitored with IA and a higher incidence of umbilical artery base excess.

# Appendix T Model Policies



#### **Continuous External Fetal Monitoring**

- 1. CEFM is more appropriate for women at risk for complications because fetal conditions can deteriorate more rapidly in those cases
- 2. CEFM may be easier to monitor if RN staffing is a concern

FHR Characteristic	Doppler without Paper Printout	Electronic FHR Monitor
Variability	No	Yes
Baseline rate	Yes	Yes
Accelerations	Detects increases	Yes
Decelerations	Detects decreases	Differentiates types of decelerations

#### **Deciding on the Appropriate Method of Monitoring** (See Appendix A)

#### 1. The Patient's Role

All low-risk patients should be offered IA. Ideally this conversation should take place in the antenatal period and be documented in the patient's chart. In the absence of clinical risk factors or staffing problems, the patient can decide whether IA is right for her labor

#### 2. The Nurse's Role

The ability to use IA will be part of the standard skill set of all nurses taking care of laboring patients at the Birth Center. The nurse has the responsibility to decline to use IA if he or she feels that staffing does not permit IA. In these cases the nurse should let the provider know in a timely fashion that the nurse is unable to provide IA. The nurse can advocate for IA in a patient that he or she feels qualifies for IA or advocate for EFM in the patient who he or she feels needs to have EFM.

#### 3. The Provider's Role

On admission the provider will evaluate the initial fetal monitoring tracing and the patient's risk factors and decide whether the patient is appropriate for IA. All low risk women should be offered IA and counseled regarding the advantages and disadvantages.



#### **PROCEDURE:**

(See Appendix D for the Procedure of Fetal Monitoring)

#### FREQUENCY OF ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of the FHR in the medical record may occur at intervals that are different from assessment. When assessment and documentation are done at different intervals, this should be specified in the notes section of WatchChild. For example, "assessing FHR q 5" can be written in the notes, while a complete "Fetal Assessment" screen is done every 15 minutes. (See Appendix B for further documentation instructions.)

	Assessment	Documentation
Antepartum, not in labor	Individualized per orders.	Individualized per orders.
Latent phase labor	If on continuous monitoring, assess hourly, unless clinical condition indicates increased frequency of assessment/documentation.	If on continuous monitoring, document hourly, unless clinical condition indicates increased frequency of assessment/documentation.
Active phase labor: Intermittent Auscultation	Assess every 30 minutes  Note: There is no need to get a continuous EFM strip at the change of shift	Document every 30 minutes
Active phase labor: Continuous EFM	Assess every 15 minutes	Document every 30 minutes
Second stage labor, if actively pushing: Intermittent Auscultation	Assess every 5 minutes	Document every 15 minutes
Second stage labor, if actively pushing: Continuous EFM	Assess every 5 minutes	Document every 15 minutes

#### **APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A: FETAL HEART RATE CHARACTERISTICS
- Appendix B: Examples for Considering Continuous EFM
- Appendix C: The Procedure of Fetal Monitoring
- Appendix D: Documentation of Fetal Monitoring

#### **CROSS REFERENCES:**

- Nursing Dept. Policy 6.5/Notification of Physician for Change in Patient Condition
- Birth Center Policy Documentation: WatchChild

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. Alfirevic Z, Devane D, Gyte GML. Continuous cardiotocography (CTG) as a form of

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- electronic fetal monitoring (EFM) for fetal assessment during labour. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD006066. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006066.
- 2. Feinstein, NF, Sprague, A, and Trepanier, MJ. 2008. Fetal Heart Rate Auscultation. Washington, DC: AWHONN.
- 3. Macones, G et al. The 2008 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Workshop Report on Electronic Fetal Monitoring. Obstetrics and Gynecology 2008:112:661-6.
- 4. Simpson, K.R. and Knox, G.E. Common areas of litigation related to care during labor and birth. Recommendations to promote patient safety and decrease risk exposure. Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing 2003:17:110-125.
- Intrapartum electronic fetal heart rate monitoring and the prevention of perinatal brain injury. Graham EM, Petersen SM, Christo DK, Fox HE. Obstet Gynecol. 2006 Sep;108(3 Pt 1):656-66.
- 6. Suggested citation: American College of Nurse-Midwives. Intermittent Auscultation for Intrapartum Fetal Heart Rate Surveillance NUMBER 13. J Midwifery Womens Health. 60(5):626–632.

#### **SUPERSEDES:**

- L&D Policy 5.1/Electronic Fetal/Toco Monitoring-External (2/94)
- OB-Policy/Electronic/Toco Monitoring (10/89)
- L&D Policy 1.6/Assisting with the Insertion of Intrauterine Pressure Catheter (IUPC)



#### APPENDIX A: FETAL HEART RATE CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. <u>Baseline rate</u>: mean (average) FHR rounded to increments of 5 bpm during a 10 minute segment excluding:
  - a. Periodic or episodic changes
  - b. Periods of marked FHR variability
  - c. Segments of the baseline that differ by > 25 bpm

\*\*\*Baseline rate is determined over a 10-minute window. Minimum baseline duration must be at least 2 minutes of the baseline, or the baseline for that period is indeterminate. You may refer to the previous 10-minute segment to determine the baseline.

Normal baseline rate is 110-160 Tachycardia = FHR > 160 bpm for  $\geq$  10 minutes in duration Bradycardia = FHR < 110 bpm for  $\geq$  10 minutes in duration

- 2. <u>Baseline variability</u>: Fluctuations in the baseline FHR of 2 cycles per minute or greater. Fluctuations are irregular in amplitude and frequency (overall irregularity of the heart rate) and are visually quantified by the amplitude from peak to trough (high to low) in bpm and are labeled as follows:
  - a. **Absent** = amplitude range is undetectable
  - b. **Minimal** = amplitude range is between  $2 \le 5$  bpm
  - c. **Moderate** = amplitude range is 6-25 bpm
  - d. Marked = > 25 bpm

Sinusoidal pattern is a smooth sine wave-like pattern of regular frequency and amplitude and is excluded in the definition of FHR variability.

- 3. Acceleration: a visually apparent abrupt increase (defined as onset of acceleration to peak in < 30 seconds) in FHR above the baseline. The increase is identified from the most recently determined portion of the baseline. The acme (peak) of the acceleration is ≥ 15 bpm above the baseline and lasts ≥ 15 seconds and is < 2 minutes in duration from onset to return to the baseline. Prior to 32 weeks gestation, acceleration = an acme (peak) of ≥ 10 bpm above the baseline and a duration of ≥ 10 seconds.
  - <u>Prolonged acceleration</u> is  $\geq 2$  minutes and < 10 minutes in duration. An acceleration of  $\geq 10$  minutes is a baseline change.
- 4. <u>Late deceleration</u>: A visually apparent <u>gradual</u> (onset of deceleration to nadir is ≥ 30 seconds) decrease and return to baseline FHR and is associated with a uterine contraction. Decrease is calculated from the most recently determined portion of the baseline. <u>The nadir of the deceleration occurs after the peak of the contraction</u>. Usually, the onset, nadir and recovery of the deceleration occur after the beginning peak and ending of the contraction.
- 5. Early deceleration: A visually apparent gradual (onset of deceleration to nadir ≥ 30 seconds) and return to baseline FHR and is associated with a uterine contraction. The decrease is calculated from the most recently determined portion of the baseline. The nadir of the deceleration occurs simultaneously to the peak of the contraction. Usually the onset, nadir

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and recovery of the deceleration occur simultaneously to the peak of the contraction.

- 6. Variable deceleration: A visually apparent abrupt decrease (onset of deceleration to the beginning of the nadir < 30 seconds) in FHR below baseline. The decrease is calculated from the most recently determined portion of the baseline. The decrease in FHR below the baseline is ≥ 15 bpm, lasting ≥ 15 seconds, and < 2 minutes from onset to return to baseline FHR. When associated with uterine contractions, their onset, depth and duration commonly vary with successive uterine contractions.</p>
- 7. <u>Prolonged deceleration</u>: A visually apparent decrease in FHR below the baseline. The decrease is calculated from the most recently determined portion of the baseline. The decrease from the baseline is ≥ 15 bpm, lasting ≥ 2 minutes but < 10 minutes from onset to return of FHR baseline. A prolonged deceleration of ≥ 10 minutes is a baseline change.
- 8. Reactive FHR tracing: A tracing is identified as "reactive" when the tracing exhibits 2 accelerations / 20 minutes, ≥ 15 bpm above baseline lasting ≥ 15 seconds in association with moderate variability and a baseline between 110-160 bpm. If before 32 weeks gestation = 2 accelerations / 20 minutes with accelerations ≥ 10 bpm above baseline lasting for ≥ 10 seconds.

#### Quantification:

- 1. Any <u>deceleration</u> is quantified by the depth of the nadir in bpm below FHR baseline and excludes any transient spikes or electronic artifact. The duration is described in minutes and seconds beginning to the end of the deceleration. They are defined as **recurrent** if they occur with ≥ 50% of uterine contractions in a 20 minute period.
- 2. Any <u>acceleration</u> is quantified by the height of the peak in bpm above FHR baseline and excludes any transient spikes or electronic artifact. The duration is described in minutes and seconds from beginning to the end of the acceleration.
- 3. **Bradycardia** and **tachycardia** are quantified by the actual FHR in bpm or the visually determined range if the FHR does not remain at one rate.

Category I Normal	Category II Indeterminate	Category III Abnormal
• Baseline rate: 110–160	Baseline rate	<ul> <li>Absent baseline FHR</li> </ul>
beats per minute (bpm)	Bradycardia not	variability and any of
Baseline FHR variability:	accompanied by absent	the following:
moderate	baseline variability	- Recurrent late
• Late or variable	Tachycardia	decelerations
decelerations: absent	<b>Baseline FHR</b>	- Recurrent variable
• Early decelerations:	variability	decelerations
present or absent	Minimal baseline	- Bradycardia
Accelerations: present or	variability	<ul> <li>Sinusoidal pattern</li> </ul>
absent	Absent baseline	
	variability not	



variability	
Accelerations	
<ul> <li>Absence of induced</li> </ul>	
accelerations after fetal	
stimulation	
Periodic or episodic	
decelerations	
<ul> <li>Recurrent variable</li> </ul>	
decelerations	
accompanied by	
minimal or moderate	
baseline variability	
<ul> <li>Prolonged deceleration</li> </ul>	
≥2 minutes but<10	
minutes	
Recurrent late	
decelerations with	
moderate baseline	
variability	
-	
"shoulders"	
	• Absence of induced accelerations after fetal stimulation  Periodic or episodic decelerations • Recurrent variable decelerations accompanied by minimal or moderate baseline variability • Prolonged deceleration ≥2 minutes but<10 minutes • Recurrent late decelerations with moderate baseline variability • Variable decelerations with other characteristics, such as slow return to baseline, "overshoots," or

**Interpretation of Auscultation Findings**<sup>6</sup>

Interpretation of Auscultation Findings	
Category I	Category II
Normal FHR baseline between 110 and 160 bpm	Irregular rhythm
Regular heart rhythm	Presence of FHR decreases or decelerations from the baseline     Note: When recurrent decelerations are detected, a transfer to EFM is indicated. EFM will be able to determine if the decreases from baseline are early, late, or variable decelerations and a diagnostic category I, II, or III will then be assigned using NICHD criteria for EFM generated FHR tracings.

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•	Absence of FHR decreases or decelerations from the baseline	•	Tachycardia (baseline >160 bpm >10 minutes in duration
•	Note: Presence of FHR increases of accelerations from the baseline may or may not be present in a FHR auscultated and determined to be Category I. Accelerations should be assessed for and documented if present. If present, FHR accelerations signify fetal well=being at the time they are noted.	•	Bradycardia (baseline <110 bpm >10 minutes in duration



# Appendix B: Below, find examples for considering continuous EFM, optimal monitoring will be determined by CNM / MD order

#### **Maternal Conditions**

#### Chronic Disorders

- 1 Active drug use that may affect neonatal morbidity
- 2 Chronic HTN
- 3 SLE or antiphospholipid syndrome
- 4 Thyroid disease, if uncontrolled

Diabetes requiring insulin or uncontrolled gestational diabetesObstetric history

- 1 History of IUFD
- 2 Previous cesarean birth

#### Current pregnancy

- 1 No prenatal care
- 2 Cholestasis
- 3 Diabetes that requires insulin or uncontrolled gestational diabetes
- 4 Gestational hypertension
- 5 Increased maternal serum AFP or HCG
- 6 Malpresentation
- 7 Twins
- 8 Oligohyramnios
- 9 Prolonged pregnancy >41weeks
- 10 Pre-eclampsia
- 11 Prematurity (less than 36 weeks)
- 12 Preterm premature ROM (<36 weeks)

#### Labor

- 1 Chorioamnionitis
- 2 Epidural anesthesia
- 3 Meconium
- 4 Pitocin administration
- 5 Vaginal bleeding greater than bloody show
- 6 Misoprostol administration within two hours

#### **Fetal Conditions**

- 1 IUGR
- 2 Known congenital anomaly
- 3 Polyhydramnios
- 4 Red cell alloimmunization in the presence of erythroblastosis

#### **NOTE:** The following ARE NOT exclusions to IA:

- 1 Fentanyl administration
- 2 ROM at term with clear fluid, regardless of duration

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### **APPENDIX C: The Procedure of Fetal Monitoring**

#### 1. **Intermittent Auscultation**

- a. Auscultation: When using auscultation as a mode of intermittent monitoring, a
   Doppler is used. FHR baseline should be established between contractions.
   Auscultation should be performed before, during and continued for one minute after
   the completion of a contraction. Maternal pulse to be determined immediately prior to
   and during auscultation. If maternal pulse and FHR cannot be distinguished from one
   another consider electronic monitoring and/or use of maternal pulse oxymetry.
- b. Utilizing abdominal palpation, contraction frequency, duration and intensity will be assessed and documented with the same frequency as FHR.

#### 2. External Fetal Monitoring (EFM/Doppler):

- a. Precautions / Contraindication: unknown. Although some patients may exhibit sensitivity to aquasonic gel, KY lubricating gel may be used instead.
- b. Assess the need for fetal heart rate monitoring
- c. Operate and set up monitoring equipment appropriately
- d. Explain to the patient the need for FHR monitoring and what data the monitoring will provide
- e. Assess the monitor is functioning properly
- f. Observe the FHR tracing for consistency to verify clarity of input
- g. When monitoring is in progress observe area of abdomen under EFM monitor piece for redness, adjust as needed
- h. Reapply gel as needed
- i. Whenever in doubt, auscultate FHR and check maternal heart rate by applying the pulse ox (or manually).

#### 3. External Uterine Monitoring/Tocotransducer:

- a. Precautions / Contraindication: unknown. Although some patients could experience skin breakdown // irritation. Frequently reposition the monitor
- b. Position the woman comfortably. Ensure uterine displacement to reduce compression of the inferior vena cava and position toco transducer on abdomen where fundus is most easily palpable and least maternal tissue is present. Avoid placing toco over umbilicus.
- c. Adjust the control button between contractions to record an artificial baseline tonus of approximately 10 mmHg to prevent the tracing from failing to record
- d. When monitoring is in progress check under the toco for redness and reposition every few hours

#### 4. Internal uterine pressure catheter monitoring (IUPC):

- a. The Registered Nurse knowledgeable in this procedure is responsible for assisting the physician and or CNM with the insertion of an intrauterine pressure catheter.
- b. Physicians, Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and medical and midwifery students



- under appropriate direction may insert an intrauterine pressure catheter.\*
- c. Amniotic membranes must be ruptured and cervix adequately dilated prior to insertion.
- d. An intrauterine pressure catheter should not be used if placenta previa is present or suspected.
- e. Indications: A direct means of detecting frequency, duration, and intensity and resting tone of contractions.
- f. An IUPC may be used to determine Montevideo units. Montevideo units (MVUs) are a unit of measure of the intensity or force or a contraction. MVUs are determined by taking the sum of the peak of the contractions in a 10 minute period. Charting frequency remains, if charting every 30 minutes either average the MVU's or chart a range in the comments section of the uterine activity box. Adequate MVUs are considered to be in the range of:
  - 200-280 mmHg if the baseline uterine tone is subtracted from the total.
  - 240-300 mmHg if the baseline tone is included in the total.
  - Maximal uterine activity is considered to be 280-300 MVUs.
- g. Adequacy of uterine activity with an IUPC may also be established by following criteria:
  - A contraction pattern with contractions > 2 minutes and  $\le 3$  minutes apart.
  - Uterine contractions that are  $\geq$  50 mmHg above the baseline resting tone.
- h. Average uterine resting tone is considered to be 5-25 mmHg. A higher resting tone may be noted for Pitocin induction, multiple fetuses, and amnionitis. An elevated baseline resting tone > 25 mmHg may warrant further evaluation to determine etiology.
- An intrauterine pressure catheter (IUPC) has been associated with rare complications such as uterine perforation, abruption placenta and possibly amniotic fluid embolus.
   Use of IUPC in labor has not resulted in a decrease in Cesarean birth; hence its routine use is not recommended.

#### 5. Procedure for IUPC set-up

- a. Explain procedure and indication to patient and family to decrease anxiety and increase cooperation
- b. Position patient in dorsal lithotomy position.
- c. Prepare equipment as follows:
  - Gather supplies: catheter, cable and sterile gloves.
  - Turn on the fetal monitor and plug in IUPC cable
  - Open sterile catheter package.
  - Connect the cable to the IUPC connection site.
  - Maintain zero slide in the "closed" position and zero the monitor. This establishes a zero baseline for the catheter.
  - Assist care provider with the insertion of the IUPC.
  - Secure catheter to patient's thigh.
- d. Documentation in WatchChild computer system:
  - Fetal Assess screen: Change monitor type. Chart initial baseline reading and uterine resting tone in both lateral positions and while patient is supine.
  - MVUs after 10 minutes

\*CMQCC note: Nurses who have been appropriately trained can insert IUPCs, if in accordance with unit policy and procedure

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#### 6. Internal Fetal Monitoring/Fetal Scalp Electrode (FSE):

- a. Fetal presentation should be documented prior to insertion via exam or ultrasound.
- b. Assist provider with FSE insertion by obtaining FSE packet and positioning patient
- c. Attach cable to FSE leg plate
- d. Attach FSE device to leg plate
- e. Secure leg plate to patient's anterior thigh
- f. Observe tracing for clarity and functioning. If unclear or erratic, check leg palte contact and check cable attachment. If tracing does not improve, notify provider to replace FSE.
- g. To remove electrode, turn 1 ½ times counter clockwise and pull gently.
- h. The fetal scalp electrode (FSE) may rarely cause infection at the site of insertion
- i. The use of a FSE is relatively contraindicated in instances of potential vertical transmission of infection, such as HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Risk / benefit analysis must be individualized in these circumstances. Contraindications: face presentation.
- j. With known fetal coagulopathies, the FSE may cause excessive bleeding. Consultation with a High Risk specialist is advisable, as risk/benefit analysis must be individualized in these circumstances.



#### **APPENDIX D: Documentation of Fetal Monitoring**

#### **Documentation with Intermittent Auscultation**

- 2) Fetal assessment includes the following:
  - a. mode
  - b. Fetal heart rate
  - c. Rhythm: regular or irregular
  - d. Increases (accelerations), presence or absence
  - e. Decreases, depth, timing and duration (Type of deceleration per EFM definitions cannot be accurately described with IA)

Note: FHT variability is not assessed with IA

- 3) Uterine activity includes the following:
  - a. Mode
  - b. Frequency: from the beginning of one contraction to the beginning of the next contraction
  - c. Duration
  - d. Intensity

#### **Documentation with the External Fetal Monitor**

- 1) Fetal assessment includes the following:
  - a. Baseline FHR
  - b. FHR variability
  - c. Presence of accelerations.
  - d. Periodic or episodic decelerations.
  - e. Changes or trends of FHR patterns over time

Note: FHR patterns have been given descriptive names. Nurses should use these terms in both written and verbal communication. The terms used at the Birth Center are established by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHHD) and the National Institutes of Health as universal nomenclature for EFM interpretation. See Appendix C for description of fetal heart rate characteristics.

- 2) Uterine activity includes the following:
  - a. Mode
  - b. Frequency: from the beginning of one to beginning of next one
  - c. Duration
  - d. Intensity

Use narrative notes, flow sheets, and summary.

# Appendix T Model Policies



# Policy Title: Freedom of Movement. Copyright©2014 Springer Publishing Company, LLC. Reprinted with permission.

Policy: Provide the laboring woman freedom to walk, move about, and assume the position of her choice during labor and birth unless restriction or a specific position is needed because of an underlying maternal-fetal condition.

Purpose: Freedom of movement in labor reduces maternal and neonatal morbidity, facilitates uterine contractility and labor progression, and enhances maternal satisfaction of the childbirth process. Restricting a laboring woman's movement may adversely affect physiologic and psychologic elements during labor and childbirth, resulting in increased utilization of obstetrical interventions, oxytocin augmentation, and operative delivery.

- There has been no evidence of increased maternal or neonatal morbidity or increased obstetrical interventions in allowing a birthing mother the freedom to ambulate (move about) or change position during labor and birth.
- When a laboring woman is restricted to supine positioning, compression of the
  inferior vena cava by the weight of the fetus results in maternal hypotension and
  decreased uteroplacental perfusion. Higher pH and higher values of PO<sub>2</sub>, and
  lower values of PCO<sub>2</sub> are in the cord blood of women who labor and birth in
  nonsupine positions.
- Ambulation, movement, and upright maternal positioning are likely to reduce the length of the first stage of labor by facilitating fetal descent. Restriction of movement decreases the fetal ability to descend, flex, rotate, and engage into the pelvis.
- Women who ambulate during the first stage of labor are less likely to have an operative delivery, defined as cesarean section, forceps, or vacuum extraction.
- When given the freedom to ambulate, move, and change position during labor and birth, most women find his to be an effective form of pain relief and are less likely to receive regional anesthesia.

#### Procedure:

- 1. The laboring woman will have freedom to change position to obtain a position of comfort, including, but not limited to, walking, standing, kneeling, squatting, and the use of chair, stool or birthing ball, unless a restriction on movement is required due to treatment or assessment of an underling medical condition.
- Utilization of nonevidence-based practices restrictive to a laboring woman's
  freedom of movement (including continuous pulse-oximetry or continuous
  electronic fetal monitoring for low-risk obstetric clients) should be discouraged
  and dictated only by the underlying maternal-fetal condition versus institutional
  protocol.
- 3. Utilization of technology that affords a laboring woman freedom of movement during labor and childbirth including fetal telemetry and Doppler for intermittent fetal heart rate auscultation should be readily available to all intrapartum nursing and obstetrical staff.
- 4. The laboring woman whose labor is progressing slowly should be encouraged by the health care team to assume upright positions such as walking, kneeling forward, or rocking on a birthing ball, as ambulation and/or movement may encourage the progression of labor.

Munch L. Freedom of Movement. In: Hotelling B, Gordon H, eds. *How to Become Mother-Friendly. Policies and Procedures for Hospitals, Birth Centers, and Home Birth Services* New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC; 2014.



Hoag Hospital. Induction of Labor Scheduling Policy. Includes Induction of Labor Scheduling Request and patient education materials. Used with permission.

Catego	ory: Patient Care Services	Effective Date:	See footer
Owner:	Labor and Delivery OR Manager		
Title:	Cesarean Delivery / Induction of Labor Scheduling		

**PURPOSE:** To eliminate non-medically indicated (elective) deliveries prior to 39 weeks. Non-medically indicated cesarean delivery or induction of labor prior to 39 completed weeks gestation requires approval of the Hoag Physician Leader or designee.

**SCOPE:** Labor and Delivery

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL: Labor and Delivery Director, Charge Nurses, OR Manager, Clerical Coordinators

	Description	Responsible Person
1.0 SCHEDUL	ING DEFINITIONS:	LDR Director,
1.1	Clock In Time: Patient in the room and anesthesia ready to be administered ,surgeon	LDR OR
	has presented to the department	Manager,
1.2	Procedure Start Time: When Anesthesiologist releases patient to Surgical Team.	Charge RN,
	Pre-incision verification (time out) will occur: correct patient, correct site, correct	Scheduler
	surgery, and correct position.	
1.3	Incision Time: When surgeon makes the Incision / starts the surgery.	
1.4	Procedure End Time: Surgeon has finished the procedure.	
1.5	Out of Room Time: Patient exits the O.R. suite.	
1.6	Late Start	
	1.6.1 If the patient enters the OR by or before the scheduled start time, the case is considered "on time" and "no delay" is recorded on the Intraoperative Record. If the patient enters the OR past the scheduled time, the case is considered a "late start" and a delay code must be recorded on the	
	Intraoperative Record.	
1.7	Urgent/Emergent	
	1.7.1 Emergency Cases: Life threatening conditions requiring immediate attention that takes precedence over other cases. Emergencies will be performed in an available operating room during regular hours or may bump scheduled cases if all existing rooms are in use.	
	1.7.2 Urgent Cases: In house referrals or patients admitted to the hospital that requires surgical intervention within 24 hours.	
	1.7.3 Turnover Time: The time from when the current patient leaves the room until the next patient enters the room. Turn over time reports are generated for tofollow cases by the same surgeon.	
	1.7.4 Clean Up Time: Scheduling will allow adequate time between scheduled cases for cleaning and prepping. The OR clean up time is 30 minutes.	
2.0 SURGERY	CASE / INDUCTION SCHEDULING:	Physician,
2.1	All cases are scheduled through the Labor and Delivery Scheduling Line.	Scheduler,
	2.1.1 OB Physician Office will fax the Hoag Scheduling Request/Order to LDR Scheduling	LDR Charge Nurse
	2.1.2 Forms will not be accepted and requested date will not be granted if: 2.1.2.1 The form has been faxed before 0900 2.1.2.2 The form has been received 8 weeks prior to the requested surgery	

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The most current version of all Policies and Procedures is located on the Hoag Employee intranet.

Please verify effective dates.

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### **PROCEDURE**

Catego	ory: Patient Care Services	Effective Date:	See footer
Owner:	Labor and Delivery OR Manager		
Title:	Cesarean Delivery / Induction of Labor Scheduling		

		Description	Responsible
			Person
		date for cesareans/ 1 week prior to the requested induction date for	
		vaginal delivery	
	0.4.0	2.1.2.3 Orders are not present in SCM at the time of scheduling.	
	2.1.3	Women who have medical indications for delivery have priority over women	
		having elective cesarean deliveries and inductions of labor. These decisions are at the discretion of the LDR charge nurse in consultation with the	
		designated physician leader.	
2.2	All sch	neduled deliveries must have the appropriate form completed and signed by	
		ian to begin the scheduling process.	
	2.2.1	Cesarean Deliveries: Cesarean Delivery Scheduling Request/Order form	
		(PS 7598).	
		2.2.1.1 For primary, elective cesarean deliveries, a complete/signed	
		"Understanding the Risks" patient education checklist must also be	
		received in order for the case to be scheduled.	
	2.2.2	Inductions of labor: Induction of Labor Scheduling Request form (PS 5529).	
		2.2.2.1 For elective inductions, a completed/signed "Induction Education" patient education must also be received in order for the case to be	
		scheduled.	
2.3	Cases	s will be entered into Surgical Information System (SIS) by the LDR Scheduling	
2.0		al Coordinator as tentative.	
2.4		g Physician Leader (Chief of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Laborist, Department	
	Head,	etc.) will review the Scheduling Request/Order form within 24 hours.	
	2.4.1	Approval from the Hoag Physician Leader:	
		2.4.1.1 The case will proceed as scheduled. No further action taken.	
	2.4.2		
		2.4.2.1 The Hoag Physician Leader will complete a request for further	
	0.40	information to be faxed to physician office.	
	2.4.3	Declines scheduling request: 2.4.3.1 The Hoag Physician Leader will communicate the cancellation with	
		Clerical Coordinators for removal of schedule.	
		2.4.3.2 LDR Scheduling will call the OB Physician's office to inform them of	
		the cancellation of the case.	
2.5	Compi	uterized Elective Scheduling (captured in SIS)	Scheduler,
	2.5.1	In order to ensure correct patient identification the following information is	LDR OR
		needed in order to schedule surgery:	Manager
		2.5.1.1 Social Security Number or Medical Record Number	
		2.5.1.2 Patient Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	
		2.5.1.3 Date of Birth	
	0.5.6	2.5.1.4 Patient Gender	
	2.5.2	If patient is in Affinity, download the above information and continue with the	
		following information. 2.5.2.1 Patient Home and/or Work Phone Number	
		2.5.2.1 Patient Home and/or Work Phone Number 2.5.2.2 Patient In-House Room Number	
		2.5.2.3 Surgeon Name	
		2.5.2.4 Assistant Surgeon	
		ccolotain cargoon	l .





#### **PROCEDURE**

Category: Patient Care Services Effective Date: See footer

Owner: Labor and Delivery OR Manager

Title: Cesarean Delivery / Induction of Labor Scheduling

		Description			Responsible Person
0.0 T	2.5.2.6 P 2.5.2.7 S 2.5.2.8 A 2.5.2.9 A	Burgical Procedure Pre-Op Diagnosis Special Needs / Equipme unesthesia Type udmit Type	nt needed		
2.6 Time A	vailability:	Team A	Team B	Induction	LDR OR Manager,
Monday, Tuesday, The & Friday	ursday,	0715 0900 1030 1200 1330	0730	maasion	Physician Leader
Wednesday		0830 1000 1130 1300 1430	0900	0030 – 2 slots 0400 – 2 slots 0900 – 2 slots	
Weekends and Holida	ys	No scheduled time available	0830 1130		
<ul> <li>2.7 Add on Cases</li> <li>2.7.1 Surgeons or their offices call Labor and Delivery to schedule add-on cases. (After the schedule closes for the next day and scheduling for the day of surgery), all non-urgent/emergent add-on cases are considered first call/ first serve but will be triaged by the LDR Charge Nurse for time assignment and or available space.</li> <li>2.7.2 Add-on cases are logged on the Add-on list with specific information requested: Patient and surgeon name, procedure. Appropriate ancillary</li> </ul>			LDR OR Manager, Charge RN Scheduler		
departments are notified as needed. Add-on cases are entered in SIS system by Clerical Coordinator.  2.7.3 Anesthesia department will assign an Anesthesiologist to add-on cases 2.7.3.1 If case has no Anesthesiologist assigned it will automatically be assigned the LDR Unit Anesthesiologist					
2.7.4	All Urgen 2.7.4.1 A e	t –emergent add-on case ony special requests, suc quipment need to be con nmediately so the items	es are coordinated th as anesthesia sommunicated to the	upport, or other special	
2.8 <b>Bumping:</b> 2.8.1 If the surgeon determines the surgery cannot wait until there is availability of OR-room, the surgeon will contact the OR Manager or the LDR Charge Nurse and discuss the need to bump another case. 2.8.1.1 It is the responsibility of the surgeon to contact the surgeon whose			LDR OR Manager, Charge RN		

### **Model Policies**





#### **PROCEDURE**

Catego	ory: Patient Care Services	Effective Date:	See footer
Owner:	Labor and Delivery OR Manager		

**Cesarean Delivery / Induction of Labor Scheduling** Title:

Description	Responsible Person
procedure he/she will bump and discuss the surgeon.	situation with the

Reference:
Main, E., Oshiro, B., Cagolla, B., Bingham, D., Dang-Kilduff, L., & Kowalewski, L. (2010). Elimination of Non-medically indicated (elective) deliveries before 39 weeks gestational age. California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative Toolkit to Transform Maternity Care. Developed under contract #08-85012 with the California Department of Public Health; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division; First edition published by March of

Review and/or input for this procedure was given by the following: WHI ACO Pilot Committee

WHI Leadership WHI OB Core 12/2014

Revision Designation: B - significant revisions

Page 1 of 2



# INDUCTION OF LABOR (IOL) SCHEDULING REQUEST HOAG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRESBYTERIAN

The Prenatal Record MUST be on file in Labor and Delivery or Faxed with this completed form

Blective Non-Elective			Date Subm	itted:	
Requested Induction Date:					
Requesting OB: Alter		Alternate time	Iternate time availabilities:		
Pediatrician:					
Dating: EDC (month/day/year):	Gestation	al age at desired	date of IOL:w	eeksdays	
OL Diagnosis:				Latex Allergy: Yes N	
PATIENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	<b>1</b> :	,			
Patient Name:		_			
DOB:		SSN:		MR#:	
Address:	Home #:		Work #:		
	Cell #:		Other#:		
Office contact:	Phone #:		Fax #:		
Induction Order in CPOE (Sign & Hold)					
Special instructions:					
	A.M./P.M.				
[Date] [Time		[Physi	cian Signature – Requir	ed] ID#	
o Be Completed by Physician Office St NSURANCE CARD INFORMATION	aff Primary Subscriber	's Name			
D#;	Group#:				
o Be Completed By Hoag Hospital LDR	Scheduling				
Confirmation Code:	IOL Date	:	IOL Time	e:	

FAX	FORM	TO	LDF
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INDUCTION OF LABOR SCHEDULING REQUEST PS 5529 Rev 09/14/15 Name Label:

[2201]

# **Model Policies**



Induction of Labor:	rioto indicatia		avity:				
Indication: (check all appropa Level 1	riate indications Level			Level 3			
Chorioamnionitis			ation / Post-term		ance from hos	pital	
Diabetes Uncontrolled	r	regnancy		☐ Histo	ory of rapid lab		
Fetal Anomaly		Gestational diab	etes		rnal request		
Fetal hydrops/isoimmunizatio	n 🗆 II	UGR - reassuri		Prior	C/S		
<ul> <li>Gestational/Chronic hyperten</li> </ul>		etal demise			tient desires V		
UGR less than 5%						ors (specify):	
Maternal medical conditions						favorable cervix	
(specify): Multiple gestation:				☐ Other	indication: _		
twins di/di mo/di							
Non-reassuring fetal testing							
Oligohydramnios							
☐ Preeclampsia/HELLP							
PROM							
Confirmation of gestational age	:						
.MP:							
EDC: determine	ned by: (check a	ll that apply)					
Ultrasound obtained at < 20	weeks on (date)	):@	(gestational age	): weeks c	onfirms gesta	tional age	
Known date of conception of	on (date):	associated with	infertility treatme	nt			
EDC was not determined by abo	ove methods, their	n identify docum	nentation of fetal	maturity:			
Amniocentesis performed on:		Results:	2			9	
Provide explanation if scheduling	at < 39 weeks:						
Bishop Score							
	0	1	2	3	Score		
Dilation (cm)	closed	1-2	3-4	≥ 5			
		40-50	60-70	≥ 80		_	
Effacement (%)	0-30						
Effacement (%) Station (cm)	-3	-2	-1	≥ 0		-	
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency	-3 Firm	-2 Medium	Soft	≥ 0		=	
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position	-3 Firm Posterior	-2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior				
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:	-3 Firm Posterior	-2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior patients. Date/Time	Total:			_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b	Firm Posterior elective induction	-2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior patients. Date/Time	Total:	alist		_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi	-3 Firm Posterior elective induction e completed by nation:	-2 Medium Midline n of multiparous  Chief of Materia	Soft Anterior patients.  Date/Timenal Fetal Medicin	Total:	alist		_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi  Schedule: Medically indicated	-3 Firm Posterior elective induction e completed by nation: d and necessitate	-2 Medium Midline n of multiparous  Chief of Materials delivery < 39	Soft Anterior patients.  Date/Timenal Fetal Medicin	Total:	ralist		
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi  Schedule: Medically indicated	-3 Firm Posterior elective induction e completed by nation: d and necessitate	-2 Medium Midline n of multiparous  Chief of Materials delivery < 39	Soft Anterior patients.  Date/Timenal Fetal Medicin	Total:	ialist		_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 38 Completed by:	-3 Firm Posterior elective induction e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo	A of multiparous  Chief of Materials delivery < 39 duled date	Soft Anterior  patients.  Date/Tim mal Fetal Medicia weeks gestation	Total:			
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Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 39 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission	-3 Firm Posterior elective induction e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo	-2 Medium Midline  of multiparous  Chief of Material and the set delivery < 39 dulled date  OB Hospitalist]	Soft Anterior  patients.  Date/Time weeks gestation  Date/Time	e:		Repeat Score	_
Effacement (%) Station (cm)  Station (cm)  Cervical Consistency  Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for  Physician Signature:  To b  Procedure Scheduling Determi  Schedule: Medically indicated  Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 38  Completed by:  [Chief of Matern  Bishop Score on Admission  Dilation (cm)	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo  nal Fetal Medicine/ loclosed	-2 Medium Midline n of multiparous  Chief of Materials delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time	Total:  e:  ne or OB Hospit		Repeat Score	_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 36 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission  Dilation (cm) Effacement (%)	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo	-2 Medium Midline  n of multiparous  Chief of Materies delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]  1 1-2 40-50	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time	Total:  Total:  e:		Repeat Score	_
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Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 30 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission  Dilation (cm) Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  Exam done By:	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo nal Fetal Medicine/o closed 0-30 -3 Firm Posterior	-2 Medium Midline  of multiparous  Chief of Material as delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]  1 1-2 40-50 -2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  2 3-4 60-70 -1 Soft	Total:  Total:  a:  Total:  3  ≥ 5  ≥ 80  ≥ 0		Repeat Score	_
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Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 38 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission Dilation (cm) Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  Exam done By:  Difference in Bishop score gree Cervical ripening ordered	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo nal Fetal Medicine/ closed 0-30 -3 Firm Posterior	-2 Medium Midline  of multiparous  Chief of Material as delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]  1 1-2 40-50 -2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  2 3-4 60-70 -1 Soft	Total:  Total:  a:  Total:  3  ≥ 5  ≥ 80  ≥ 0		Repeat Score	_
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Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 38 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission Dilation (cm) Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  Exam done By:  Difference in Bishop score gree Cervical ripening ordered	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo nal Fetal Medicine/ closed 0-30 -3 Firm Posterior	-2 Medium Midline  of multiparous  Chief of Material as delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]  1 1-2 40-50 -2 Medium Midline	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  2 3-4 60-70 -1 Soft	Total:  Total:  a:  Total:  3  ≥ 5  ≥ 80  ≥ 0		Repeat Score	_
Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  A Bishop Score ≥ 6 is required for Physician Signature:  To b Procedure Scheduling Determi Schedule: Medically indicated Schedule: Gestation age ≥ 38 Completed by:  [Chief of Matern Bishop Score on Admission Dilation (cm) Effacement (%) Station (cm) Cervical Consistency Cervical Position  Exam done By:  Difference in Bishop score gree Cervical ripening ordered	-3 Firm Posterior  elective induction  e completed by nation: d and necessitate weeks on scheo nal Fetal Medicine/o closed 0-30 -3 Firm Posterior  eater than or equal	-2 Medium Midline  of multiparous  Chief of Material as delivery < 39 duled date  OB Hospitalist]  1 1-2 40-50 -2 Medium Midline  al to 4	Soft Anterior  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  Date/Time  2 3-4 60-70 -1 Soft Anterior	Total:  Total:  ### Total:  ### Total:  ### Total:  ### Total:  ### Total:  ### Total:		Repeat Score	_
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## Induction Education for Patients

Induction of labor is the use of medication or other interventions to get labor started. There are a number of medical reasons for which labor induction is indicated. An *elective* induction is done when a patient and her clinician decide to induce for non-medical reasons. In a first delivery, elective induction is not scheduled before 41 weeks of pregnancy. For women who have already delivered a baby, elective induction is not performed prior to 39 completed weeks of pregnancy. The most common ways of starting contractions are by breaking your bag of water and use of medications.

There are a number of physical and social reasons that a patient and her clinician may choose elective induction. Patients should have a clear understanding of the pros and cons of inducing labor before considering labor induction.

#### **ELECTIVE INDUCTION OF LABOR MAY:**

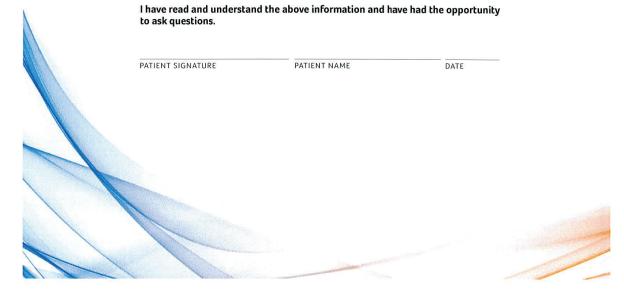
- · Increase the duration of labor and hospital stay
- Increase the need for pain medication and/or epidural
- Decrease the patient's ability to move about the labor room
- · Increase the chance of cesarean delivery

For more information about induction please go to: http://www.bit.ly/inductioninformation

**Please understand that your scheduled time is a request.** You may not be able to come in on the day and time that you are scheduled if we have high patient volume and room is not available.

Call Labor and Delivery at 949/764-5789 before coming to the hospital to determine availability for induction. If there is no availability at that time, the charge nurse will provide you follow up instructions. You will be contacted by our Labor and Delivery staff regarding your delivery plans.

Continue your normal routine while waiting to be admitted to the hospital, to include eating and drinking as usual.





#### Marin General Hospital. Pain Management Policy. Used with permission.

# MARIN GENERAL HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT OF NURSING WOMEN'S, INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S CARE SERVICES

# POLICY FOR THE PAIN MANAGEMENT OF THE OB PATIENT DURING THE INTRAPARTUM PERIOD

#### I. POLICY

It is the policy of Marin General Hospital (MGH) to assure that an obstetric patient be given accurate and current information regarding nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic interventions that are available to them when they are in labor.

#### II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that patients are supported in their pain management decisions by the Obstetric (OB) Registered Nurses (RN) caring for them in labor. Health care providers including nurses are crucial resources for childbearing families. In order to assist women in the decision for relief of labor discomforts, Obstetric Registered Nurses must be knowledgeable regarding the risks and benefits of all medications used in labor and also be able to support them in non pharmacological methods.

#### III. GENERAL INFORMATION

Labor pain differs from acute or chronic pain in that it is an expectation of the process. Increasing intensity and frequency often heralds progress and is interpreted as a positive sign, rather than a sign that something is wrong. Labor pain has many psychological associations that cause women to actually choose to experience pain rather than control it. The preparation for the labor process as well as the emotional support received during labor aid in decreasing maternal anxiety thereby decreasing or altering her perception of pain.

The laboring patient's description of the pain intensity of her contractions is whatever she says it is, regardless of the intensity of uterine contractions (UC's) as palpated by the nurse.

Pain relief needs to be addressed with use of non-pharmacological interventions any time during labor that pharmacological interventions are contraindicated. Nonpharmacological interventions are an effective alternative to pharmacological interventions and can be used anytime per patient preference.





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ASSESSMENT	1. Assess each patient upon arrival to the unit for the following:
ASSESSIVIETT	a. Onset, frequency, and duration of UCs.
	b. A Labor Pain and Coping Assessment shall be performed initially on
	admission using the Labor Pain and Coping Scale (LPCS):
	1. Unaware, talking, sleeping
	2. Aware of Contractions, discomfort using breathing and
	relaxation techniques, comfort relaxation techniques, comfort
	measures and minimal coaching
	3. Requires coaching, pain medication and pain management
	interventions
	4. Intense coaching, inadequate pain relief
	c. Description of pain (to rule out pain from other causes than labor, i.e.
	abruption, uterine rupture, etc.).
	d. Interventions for pain management used by patient at home.
	e. Effectiveness of interventions will be assessed 30 minutes after
	intervention is given.
	f. If patient has had any childbirth preparation classes.
	g. Patient's plan for pain management during labor.
	g. Tatient's plan for pain management during labor.
	2. Pain assessment in Labor is ongoing because it is not expected to
	diminish or go away. Following the LPCS assessment on admission, a
	pain/coping assessment shall be performed with complete set of vital
	signs (every 2-4 hours) before and after medication/intervention is
	requested and received or as patient conditions warrants. Frequency of
	assessment may be modified by agreement between the patient and the
	nurse.

# **Model Policies**



Policy & Procedure #3050.34 Policy for the Pain Management of the OB Patient During the Intrapartum Period Page 3 of 5

PLANNED STEPS	1.	Assess patient's level of pain and need for intervention.
	2.	Use any of the following support measures as non-pharmacological
		methods of pain management.
		a. Dim lights in room
		b. Quiet atmosphere
		c. Support people in room as desired by patient
		d. Instruction/coaching in slow, relaxed breathing or effective
		breathing pattern of patient's choice.
		e. Instructions/support of relaxation techniques such as
		1. Massage
		2. Visualization
		3. Meditation
		4. Music
		5. Distraction Strategies
		6. Cutaneous stimulations (transcutaneous electrical nerve
		stimulation [TENS], accupuncture, accupressure)
		7. Hypnosis/self-hypnosis
		f. Hydrotherapy-shower or tub, it not contraindicated (Refer to
		Hydrotherapy Policy #3050.41).
		g. K-pad for heat per MD order or cold pack.
		h. Counter pressure
		i. Sterile water injections as counter irritant for back labor. (Refer to
		Intradermal Sacral Sterile Water Injections Policy & Procedure #
		3050.22).
	3.	Notify MD/Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) if non-pharmacological
		methods ineffective or patient requesting additional pain relief.
	4.	Provide pharmacological interventions per MD/CNM orders with
		explanation to patient/support person.
	1.	Give appropriate age specific explanation of LPCS assessment.
PATIENT	2.	Explain process of labor as needed to decrease patient's anxiety, taking
EDUCATION		into consideration the following:
		a. Patient's questions
		b. Patient's previous knowledge of labor process
		c. Patient's age
		d. Multiparity
		e. Stage and progress of labor
	3.	If patient has had no childbirth preparation,
		a. Instruct patient and support person in simple breathing and
		relaxation techniques.
		b. Provide coaching/support until patient is able to use techniques
	1	effectively.
	4.	If patient has had previous childbirth preparation,
	1	a. Provide support/encouragement for effective breathing and
	1	relaxation techniques by patient.
	1	b. Provide coaching/support until patient is able to use techniques
	1	effectively.
		effectively.





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PATIENT EDUCATION (Continued)	<ul> <li>5. Assess pain intensity of UC's as described by patient (using LPCS coping scale) with vital signs every 2-4 hours or more often if progress of labor changes and/or the patient's condition changes. After epidural anesthesia, assess pain level every 1 hour.</li> <li>6. Assess effectiveness of each intervention. (Non-pharmacological or pharmacological) by reassessing the patient's pain intensity per pain scale.</li> </ul>
REASSESSMENT	Pain level is reassessed with vital signs and before and within 30 minutes after pain medication intervention is administered for effectiveness. Notify MD if:  1. Respiratory rate <10 or Blood Pressure (BP) < 90/50  2. Inadequate analgesia  3. Side effects (i.e. nausea, itching, hypotension)
DOCUMENTATION	<ol> <li>On Labor and Delivery (L&amp;D) Flowsheet, OB Interdisciplinary Plan of Care (IPOC), document:         <ul> <li>a. Baseline UC's/pain assessment/Patient's acceptable level of pain</li> <li>b. Patient's description of intensity of pain using Labor Pain Coping Scale, (LPCS) And mild, moderate or severe per patient's perception in regards to "uterine contraction assessment".</li> <li>c. Patient's plan for pain management during labor.</li> <li>d. Interventions for pain management used by patient at home.</li> <li>e. Effectiveness of interventions (per pain scale- assessed 30 minutes after intervention).</li> <li>f. If patient has had any childbirth preparation classes.</li> <li>g. Any additional cultural/psychosocial information effecting pain.</li> <li>h. Patient's pain /coping assessment using LPCS scale. Document in the pain assessment section underneath the Vital Signs at least every 4 hrs and 30 minutes after intervention.</li> <li>i. Interventions utilized.</li> <li>j. Effectiveness of interventions.</li> <li>k. Education given to patient and/or support person.</li> <li>l. Document any medication given on L&amp;D flowsheet.</li> <li>descriptions pain</li> <li>given on L&amp;D flowsheet.</li> <li>descriptions</li> <li>given on L&amp;D flowsheet.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

#### IV. AGE SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

### V. EQUIPMENT

Medication as prescribed by MD/CNM Syringe/needle Intravenous (IV) Solution IV Tubing Angio Catheter