

OWNING DEPARTMENT Labor and Delivery 6 WEST Postpartum 6 EAST
PAGE 1 OF 5 DATE APPROVED:

ST. JOHN MEDICAL CENTER  <b>Postpartum Hemorrhage</b>
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I. Department Applies To- Labor and Delivery, 6 East Postpartum

II. Overview

*Postpartum Hemorrhage:* An estimated blood loss in excess of 500 mL following a vaginal birth or a loss of greater than 1,000 mL following cesarean birth

III. Policy

- A. Indications- Postpartum with cumulative blood loss >500 mL after vaginal birth or >1000 mL after cesarean birth
- B. Contraindications - Hysterectomy after delivery

IV. Procedure

- A. Upon admission to L&D or PP/AP unit, every patient will be screened and OB Hemorrhage Risk Level will be documented on the patient's record.
  - 1. Evaluate for risks developed during the Labor/Delivery/Recovery process and re-assess OB Hemorrhage Risk Level as needed
  - 2. Patients with 2 or more medium risk factors are considered High Risk.
- B. Group, Type & Screen (GTS) will be obtained for every patient
- C. Identify patients who may decline blood products and document
  - 1. Notify delivering physician, OB hospitalist and anesthesiologist
  - 2. Review consent form and ensure declination of blood form is signed if applicable
- D. Notify physician that patient meets High Risk criteria.
- E. Place ORDER SET in every patient chart
- F. At delivery, both vaginal and Cesarean Section (C/S), blood loss will be measured quantitatively using formal methods, such as graduated containers and/or weight of blood soaked materials (1 gm = 1 mL).
- G. Following delivery, blood loss will continue to be measured, every 15 minutes, until the patient status changes to routine PP care.
  - 1. During this time, an appropriate Stage of OB hemorrhage will be documented in the delivery record
  - 2. Notify Physician if patient status is Stage 1 or higher and initiate the POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE PROTOCOL AND ORDER SET

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OB Hemorrhage STAGE	PROCEDURE PER PROTOCOL
<b>STAGE 0</b>  <b>ALL BIRTHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infuse increased rate of oxytocin after delivery per physician order</li> <li>• Obtain quantitative measurements of blood loss</li> <li>• Ongoing evaluation of Vital Signs and fundal properties</li> </ul>
<p><b>If Cumulative Blood Loss &gt;500 mL for vaginal birth or &gt;1000 mL for cesarean birth OR vital signs &gt; 15% change OR Increased bleeding during recovery or postpartum THEN PROCEED TO STAGE 1</b></p>	
<b>STAGE 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure OBGYN physician is present</li> <li>• Maintain patent IV access</li> <li>• Increase IV oxytocin rate and titrate infusion rate per uterine tone</li> <li>• Continue vigorous fundal massage every 15 minutes</li> <li>• Empty bladder: straight catheter or place indwelling catheter with urometer per order</li> <li>• Administer medications per ORDER SET</li> <li>• Vital signs every 15 minutes, continuous pulse ox</li> <li>• Obtain and record Quantitative measurement of blood loss q 10-15 min</li> <li>• Administer O<sub>2</sub> to maintain saturation at &gt;95%</li> <li>• Maintain I&amp;O's</li> <li>• Keep patient warm</li> <li>• Type and Crossmatch 2 units PRBCs (if not already done) as ordered by physician, notify Blood Bank for potential preparation of OB Pack</li> <li>• Obtain CBC, if platelets &lt; 100,000 draw DIC profile</li> </ul>
<p><b>If continued bleeding with blood loss up to 1500 ml cumulative blood loss OR continued vital sign instability, PROCEED TO STAGE 2</b></p>	
<b>STAGE 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify anesthesia potential for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ D&amp;C</li> <li>○ Bakri Balloon placement</li> <li>○ Packing or repair as required</li> <li>○ Uterine Artery Ligation</li> <li>○ Hypogastric ligation</li> <li>○ Selective embolization (IR)</li> <li>○ B-Lynch or Hysterectomy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Establish 2<sup>nd</sup> large bore IV</li> <li>• Assess and announce VS and cumulative blood loss q 5-10 min</li> <li>• Administer meds, blood products and draw labs per ORDER SET, as requested by physician</li> <li>• Keep patient warm</li> <li>• Place indwelling catheter with urometer (if not already done)</li> <li>• Upon physician order, Transfuse 2 units PRBCs per protocol</li> </ul>

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**Postpartum Hemorrhage**

PAGE 3 OF 5

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**If cumulative blood loss >1500 mL,  
VS unstable OR Suspicion for DIC  
PROCEED TO STAGE 3**

**STAGE 3**

- Move patient to OR (if not already there)
- Upon physician order, TRANSFUSE AGGRESSIVELY. Order OB Pack (4:4:1) from Blood Bank.
- Notify House Supervisor about possible transfer to ICU
- Announce VS and cumulative blood loss q 5-10 min
- Apply upper body warming blanket if feasible
- Use fluid warmer and/or rapid infuser for fluid/blood products
- Apply SCDs

(California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative [CMQCC], 2009)

**V. Definitions**

**A. Admission OB Hemorrhage Risk Levels**

1. Low:
  - a) No previous uterine incision
  - b) Singleton Pregnancy
  - c) <4 previous vaginal births
  - d) No known bleeding disorders
  - e) No history of PPH
  - f) BMI < 30
2. Medium:
  - a) Prior cesarean birth(s) or uterine surgery
  - b) Multiple gestation
  - c) History of PPH
  - d) 4 or more previous vaginal births
  - e) Chorioamnionitis
  - f) Large uterine fibroids
  - g) Polyhydramnios
  - h) History of previous PPH
  - i) Estimated fetal weight 4000 gm or greater
  - j) BMI > 30

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- 3. High:
  - a) Placenta previa, low lying placenta
    - b. Suspected placenta accreta or percreta
  - c) Hematocrit <30% AND any additional medium risk factors
  - d) Platelets <100,000
  - e) Active bleeding (greater than show) on admission
  - f) Known coagulopathy
  - g) Anticoagulant therapy
- B. **Initial Post Delivery Hemorrhage Risk Levels**
  - 1. Low:
    - a) Singleton pregnancy
    - b) Less than 5 total vaginal births
    - c) No known bleeding disorder
    - d) No history of PPH
    - e) Uncomplicated vaginal delivery
    - f) No genital tract trauma
  - 2. Medium:
    - a) Cesarean birth or uterine surgery
    - b) Multiple gestation
    - c) Polyhydramnios
    - d) Greater than or equal to 5 total vaginal deliveries
    - e) Chorioamnionitis
    - f) History of previous PPH
    - g) Large uterine fibroids or uterine anomaly
    - h) Prolonged active labor > 12 hr.
    - i) Prolonged Oxytocin use
    - j) Rapid labor
    - k) Application of forceps or vacuum
    - l) Genital tract trauma
    - m) Shoulder dystocia
    - n) Magnesium Sulfate treatment
  - 3. High:
    - a) Hematocrit less than 30% AND other medium or high risk factors present
    - b) Platelets less than 100,000
    - c) Anticoagulant therapy

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PAGE 5 OF 5

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- d) Known coagulopathy
- e) Active bleeding

(CMQCC, 2009)

VI. References

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). (2006). *ACOG Practice Bulletin Number 76. Postpartum Hemorrhage.*

California Maternal Quality Care Collaboration (CMQCC). (2009). *OB Hemorrhage Toolkit.* Retrieved from [http://www.cmqcc.org/ob\\_hemorrhage](http://www.cmqcc.org/ob_hemorrhage)

VII. Keywords

Postpartum Hemorrhage, Obstetric Hemorrhage, Obstetric Emergencies

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