

Treatment Protocols
Obstetrical Emergencies**Date: 07/01/2026**
Policy #9140A**BLS Standing Orders**

- **Universal Patient Protocol**
- Monitor O2 saturation, ECG, capnography, and blood pressure continuously PRN
- Give oxygen and/or ventilate PRN per **Airway Policy**
- If delivery not imminent, transport immediately on left lateral recumbent (if > 20 weeks gestation)
 - 20 weeks gestation can be estimated if the patient's fundus is to the level of the umbilicus or higher
- If birth is imminent, request another unit, for potential second patient
- Document name of person cutting cord, time cut, and location/address of delivery
- **Resuscitation of a neonate should be considered if the documented gestational age is greater than 20 weeks**, the fundal height is greater than the mother's umbilicus, or the neonate weight is greater than one (1) pound. If any doubt about accuracy of gestational age, initiate resuscitation and contact base hospital (BH) for guidance
- Assess APGAR at 1 min, and at 5 min if neonate delivered

STABLE**Routine Delivery**

- If no time for transport (patient is crowning or pushing), proceed with delivery

Following delivery:

- Suction baby's mouth then nose
- Stimulate baby by tapping soles of feet and/or rubbing back
- Clamp and cut cord once it stops pulsating (minimum one minute post-delivery)
 - During this period, keep the infant at the same level, or have the placenta slightly elevated relative to the infant to ensure blood is not preferentially being pulled by gravity to the placenta
- Dry baby, wrap warmly and place to mother's breast
- Positive pressure ventilation, PRN if HR <100 BPM
- Do not wait on scene to deliver placenta
- Once placenta is delivered, aggressively massage the fundus until fundus is firm and there is no significant vaginal bleeding
- Save placenta and deliver with patient to the hospital

COMPLICATIONS**Bleeding During Pregnancy (Prior to Delivery)**

- Immediate transport
- Refer to **Hemorrhage Control Protocol**
- Refer to **Shock Protocol**
- Bring tissue/fetus to hospital PRN

Pre-Eclampsia/Eclampsia (BP > 140/90 +/- Seizures)

- Immediate transport
- Avoid excessive stimulation
- Refer to **Seizure Protocol**

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Policy #9140A**Birth Complications****Umbilical Cord Wrapped Around Infant's Neck**

- If unable to deliver infant with cord in place, attempt to slip over head
- If unsuccessful, insert a gloved hand into the vagina and gently push the presenting part of the baby (head or shoulder) off the umbilical cord. Do not tug on the umbilical cord
- Place fingers on each side of the baby's nose and mouth, split fingers into a "V" to create an opening
- Transport immediately while retaining this position until relieved by hospital
- Cover the exposed umbilical cord with saline soaked gauze
- Place mother on high flow oxygen

Prolapsed Cord

- Place mother in head down position with hips elevated on pillows
- Insert gloved hand into the vagina and gently push presenting part off the cord. Do not handle or push cord back into vagina
- Transport immediately while retaining this position until relieved by hospital
- Place mother on high flow oxygen

Breach Birth

- Immediate transport with mother in head down, hips elevate position
- Allow infant to deliver to waist
- Once legs and buttocks are delivered, the head can be assisted out
- If head does not deliver within 3 minutes, insert gloved hand and create an airway for the infant.
- Do not try to pull infant's head out
- Place mother on high flow oxygen

Hand/Arm Presentation

- Delivery should not be attempted in the field
- Immediate transport with mother in head down, hips elevated position
- Place mother on high flow oxygen

Postpartum Hemorrhage

- Massage fundus
- Refer to **Hemorrhage Control Protocol**
- Refer to **Shock Protocol**
- Place pad to vagina if external source of bleeding (do not pack vagina)
- Immediate transport

Premature and/or Low Birth Weight Infants

- Resuscitate as needed
- Wrap baby in blanket and place on mother's abdomen
- Suction infant's mouth and nose PRN
- Monitor infant's O2 saturation
- Immediate transport

Neonatal Resuscitation

- After initial care of newborn, to include tactile stimulation, if newborn has:

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- Apnea or gasping respirations OR
- Heart rate < 100 bpm
 1. Begin BVM ventilation with room air 40-60 breaths/min
 2. Reassess breathing effort after 30 seconds
- If despite adequate ventilation
 1. Heart rate < 60 bpm after 30 seconds
 2. Ventilate via BVM @ 100% O₂
 3. Begin chest compressions at a rate of 100 per min with interposed ventilations at 30/min, 90 compressions/min (3:1 ratio) until spontaneous HR 60/min or greater
 - If HR > 60 bpm, resume BVM ventilation with room air 40-60 breaths/min
 - If HR persists < 60 bpm, continue chest compressions with interposed ventilations as above.
- Assess APGAR score
- Immediate transport

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LALS Standing Order Protocol

- Monitor O₂ saturation, capnography and blood pressure continuously PRN
- Establish IV PRN (mother)

Postpartum Hemorrhage

- NS 500-1,000 mL IV MR x 1 to a max of 2,000 mL to maintain a SBP of \geq 90 mmHg
- Refer to **Hemorrhage Control Protocol**
- Refer to **Shock Protocol**

ALS Standing Order Protocol

- Monitor O₂ saturation, ECG, capnography, and blood pressure continuously
- Establish IO/IV PRN (mother)

Postpartum Hemorrhage

- NS 500-1,000 mL IV MR x 1 to a max of 2,000 mL to maintain a SBP of \geq 90 mmHg
- Refer to **Hemorrhage Control Protocol** and consider TXA administration
- Refer to **Shock Protocol**

Eclampsia (Seizures)

- Seizures should be managed primarily with magnesium if a pregnant patient begins to newly seizure in front of prehospital clinicians. Pregnancy-related seizures should be administered magnesium per the **Magnesium Administration for OB Emergencies** protocol.
- If the patient has been seizing for > 5 minutes upon EMS arrival, midazolam should be administered per the **Seizure Protocol**. Magnesium should be administered following initial midazolam dosing.
- Seizures in pregnancy are often from eclampsia, and if no previous seizure diagnosis, magnesium is first line for pregnancy or within six weeks of delivery with new seizure onset.
- Eclampsia related seizures are generally short and self-limited. If a patient has a persistent seizure event, that is refractory to initial magnesium and midazolam dosing, consider other etiologies for seizure (ex: hypoglycemia, head trauma, etc.)

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Adult Base Hospital Orders
<p><u>Eclampsia (Seizures)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BH – Repeat midazolam dosing per Seizure Protocol
Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make every effort to transport pregnant patients to a hospital with obstetric physicians available. If hospital destination is unclear, early base hospital contact is recommended.

APGAR Scoring System

To be performed at 1 minute and 5 minutes post birth.
Can repeat at 10 minutes if exam warrants and time permits.

	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	Points Totaled	
Appearance	Blue, pale grey	Body pink, extremities blue	Completely pink		
Pulse	Absent	Below 100 bpm	Over 100 bpm		
Grimace	Flaccid	Some flexion of extremities	Active motion (sneeze, cough, pull away)		
Activity	Absent	Arms and legs flexed	Active movement		
Respiration	Absent	Slow, irregular	Vigorous cry		

Severely Depressed	0-3
Moderately Depressed	4-6
Excellent Condition	7-10

APPROVED:
SIGNATURE ON FILE – 07/01/25
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