EARLY LABOUR ASSESSMENT IN THE WOMAN’S HOME GUIDELINE

1. OPTIMAL OUTCOMES
   • Woman presents to hospital in established labour

2. PATIENT
   • Woman at 37-42 weeks pregnant who is in early labour and is receiving care from a known midwife in a continuity of care model

3. STAFF
   • Registered midwife working in Midwifery Group Practice (MGP)
   • Student Midwife who is working with a MGP midwife

4. EQUIPMENT
   • Mobile Phone
   • Doppler
   • Sphygmomanometer
   • Thermometer
   • Emergency birth kit: gloves, cord clamps, sterile scissors, blue sheets
   • Midwifery Admission Assessment sheet

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE
   • Inform woman and partner / support person during pregnancy that in some situations a home assessment visit may be offered during early labour if the woman chooses this option
   • Ensure woman and partner are aware planned homebirth is not currently an option with RHW
   • Ensure OHS risk assessment form is completed prior to term or complete on the phone prior to home visit
   • Offer woman the option of a home assessment if appropriate
   • Notify another midwife (or supervisor after hours) by text message of your intention to visit- including woman’s name and location of the visit
   • Assess woman in her home as per midwifery admission and document on midwifery admission assessment sheet including plan of action
   • Place midwifery admission assessment sheet in integrated notes upon return to hospital
   • Notify relevant midwife or supervisor of your departure from the woman’s home

6. HAZARDS/SUB-OPTIMAL OUTCOMES
   • Woman presents not in established labour
   • Woman may require transfer to hospital in advanced labour
   • Woman may request home labour assessment when midwife is unable to provide this service
   • Woman may have an unplanned homebirth
   • Obstetric or neonatal emergency may occur in the woman’s home
   • OHS risk assessment form has not been completed prior to home assessment

cont’d ..../2
7. DOCUMENTATION
   • Antenatal hospital record
   • Yellow card
   • Integrated clinical notes

8. EDUCATIONAL NOTES
   • An early labour home visit may be offered at the midwife’s discretion and according to the woman’s obstetric history and travel time from hospital.
   • It is preferable if at least one antenatal home visit has been attended prior to a home early labour assessment visit, to assist midwives with appropriate advice to woman in labour and for OHS reasons.
   • The provision of a home assessment after dark is offered at the midwives discretion and only if a prior home visit to the residence has occurred.
   • Women who feel confident to stay at home until in established labour are less likely to require interventions such as artificial rupture of membranes (ARM); syntocinon; epidural or operative births.

9. RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES/CLINICAL GUIDELINES
   • Babies Born Before Arrival
   • Telephone advice – Antenatal
   • Midwifery admission
   • Vaginal examination
   • Blood pressure measurement on a pregnant woman

10. REFERENCES