

ACCOUNTABLE ITEMS IN THE BIRTHING ENVIRONMENT (outside Operating Theatre)

This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Newborn Care Centre, Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP

1. AIM

- Ensure any accountable items used in the antepartum, intrapartum or postpartum birthing environment are recorded and removed

2. PATIENT

- Woman giving birth and/or having a procedure

3. STAFF

- Medical and midwifery staff

4. EQUIPMENT

- Sponges (radio-opaque)
- Gauze swabs (radio-opaque)
- Tampons with tail
- Raytec gauze
- Needles
- Any sharp instruments
- Surgical instruments

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Count all items used in the birthing environment at start of procedure and again at the conclusion and document on accountable items sticker (Appendix 1)
- Perform new count before completion of procedure or birth if:
 - change of clinician
 - change of location of woman
- Document and record the location of any accountable items that are deliberately left in the woman, on the count sheet AND in the progress notes
- Insert tampons only into the vagina. Ensure tail of tampon is clipped to a drape
- Record removal of the retained item on a new count sheet. Compare with the previous count sheet
- Perform thorough manual and visual search of the operative field (by clinician) to ensure all items are removed at conclusion of procedure, and document
- Report any discrepancies immediately to the clinician performing the procedure
- Report to the midwife in charge the discrepancy in the count, and subsequent plan of action
- Order an X-ray with the woman's consent if after the completion of a thorough search:
 - the count is incorrect
 - a radio-opaque item is missing
- Document the outcome in the woman's integrated clinical notes as well as on the accountable item sticker
- Complete an IIMS notification if X-ray required or item(s) remain missing

6. DOCUMENTATION

- Integrated Clinical Notes
- Partogram
- Accountable records items sticker

CLINICAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Approved by Quality & Patient Care Committee
2 June 2016

ACCOUNTABLE ITEMS IN THE BIRTHING ENVIRONMENT (outside Operating Theatre) cont'd

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- Problems associated with counts occur for a number of reasons:
 - The count may be hurried
 - Items may not have separated when opened
 - Change of clinician mid procedure
 - Change of site/woman moved to a different location before procedure or birth complete
- Use of vaginal tampons with tail has lead to a reduction of retained vaginal sponges

8. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/CLINICAL PRACTICE LOPs

- NSW Department of Health Policy Directive: Birthing Environment - Handling of Accountable Items - Standard Procedures (2008)
- Second Stage of Labour Care Recognition of Normal Progress and Management of Delay
- Fetal Blood Sampling - Intrapartum (FBS)
- Perineal/Genital Tract Repair
- Postpartum Haemorrhage - Prevention and Management
- Cervical Catheterisation for Mechanical Cervical Preparation
- Cervical Suture/Cerclage – Removal Guideline

9. RISK RATING

- Medium

10. NATIONAL STANDARD

- CC – Comprehensive Care

11. REFERENCES

- 1 Australian College of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN) (2004) ACORN Standards for Perioperative Nursing. ACORN. www.acorn.org.au
- 2 Australian Nursing Council (2003). Guidelines on delegation and supervision of nurses ANC website, www.anc.org.au
- 3 Jackson S, Brady S. Counting Difficulties: retained instruments, sponges and needles. AORN Journal 2008; 87(2): 315-321
- 4 Riley R, Manias E, Polglasse A. Governing the surgical count through communication interactions: implications for patient safety. Quality and Safety in Health Care 2006; 15: 369-374

REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs group June 2016

Approved Patient Care Committee 5/6/08

Reviewed and endorsed Obstetric Clinical Guidelines Group June 2008

Replaced "Counting of Accountable items – non operating theatre areas" approved Quality Council 15/7/02

FOR REVIEW : JUNE 2019

APPENDIX 1

ACCOUNTABLE ITEMS RECORD			
Please circle procedure:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fetal blood sampling• Removal of cervical suture• Foleys catheter insertion• Other (specify)			
	1 st Count	Additions	Final count
Gauze swabs			
Tampons			
Pipettes			
Instruments			
Sponges			
Needles/Sharps			
Other			
RM signature			
2 nd Staff member signature			