

ASSUMPTION OF CARE OF CHILD AT RISK

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

1. AIM

- Safe and respectful management of the assumption of care of children on hospital premises

2. PATIENT

- Child who is considered to be at imminent risk of significant harm and who is the subject of a court order transferring care to Family and Community Services (FaCS)
- Parent/s of such a child

3. STAFF

- **RM/RN** : Registered Midwives/Nurse
- Social workers
- Security personnel
- Medical staff
- Student Midwives
- Access and Demand Manager
- **AHNM**: After Hours Nurse Manager

4. EQUIPMENT

- Duress alarm

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Liaise with Family and Community Services re plans for assumption of care, confirm the date and time at which care will be assumed by caseworkers from Community Services
- Inform social worker and Midwifery/Nurse Unit Manager (M/NUM)
- Social worker to ensure the following practice is followed:
 - Inform Midwifery/ Nursing Unit Manager (M/NUM) of likelihood of assumption of care
 - Request caseworker attend the hospital to discuss concerns with parent/s, within normal working hours as far as practicable and with regard for physical and psychological needs of parent/s
 - Arrange secure, private meeting space for caseworkers, staff and family
 - Support the parent/s to participate in discussion and future care planning
 - Provide clinical handover after the assumption of care to appropriate clinicians
 - Transfer baby to Newborn Care Centre (NCC)
 - Update address of baby in iPM to reflect Assumption of Care
 - Postal Address: Family and Community Services (FaCS)
Locked Bag 42 Strawberry Hills 2012

6. DOCUMENTATION

- Patient integrated notes
- Mandatory Reporter Guide (printed version)
- Court order: granted under Section 48 of the Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- iPM Patient Registration System

ASSUMPTION OF CARE OF CHILD AT RISK cont'd

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- NSW Family and Community Services is responsible for case management of children at risk of significant harm
- If they consider that a child is at risk, or that parent/s are a flight risk, they may apply to the Children's Court for a temporary care order which transfers care to the Director General of Family and Community Services and removes the child from the care of the parents.
- The outcome for the child is eventually decided by the Children's Court.

8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP

- Child Protection
- NSW Health PD2013_007 Child Wellbeing and Child Protection Policies and Procedures for NSW Health
- Area PD110: Security – physical response

9. RISK RATING

- Low

10. NATIONAL STANDARD

- CC – Comprehensive Care

11. REFERENCES

1. Mills G et al 2000 Child Protection and domestic violence: training, practice and policy issues Children and Youth Services Review 22:5 315-32
2. Pennell J et al 2000 Family Group Decision-making: protecting children and women Child Welfare 79:2 131-59

REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

Reviewed and endorsed Gynaecology Services Division 10/7/18

Updated Clinical Practice June 2018

Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 16/5/13

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Updated to comply with new legislation May 2013

Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 21/10/10

Reviewed and endorsed Obstetric Clinical Guidelines Group August 2010

Title changed from *Removal of Babies/Children from Hospital by Dept of Community Services*

Approved Quality Council 14/4/03

Endorsed Maternity Services Clinical Committee & Neonatal Clinical Committee 8/4/03

FOR REVIEW : JULY 2023