

## **MIDWIFERY ASSESSMENT AND/OR ADMISSION**

*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**

- To achieve a comprehensive midwifery assessment which will inform and guide the plan of care

### **2. PATIENT**

- Pregnant woman

### **3. STAFF**

- Midwifery staff

### **4. EQUIPMENT**

- Doppler
- Sphygmomanometer
- Thermometer
- Disposable tape measure
- Cardiotocograph (CTG) machine

### **5. CLINICAL PRACTICE**

- Take a comprehensive midwifery assessment including but not limited to:
  - Reason for presentation
  - Current and previous medical or obstetric history, review of medical record / antenatal card
  - Current medications
  - Investigations
  - Emotional / psychosocial wellbeing
- Take maternal observations including temperature, pulse, blood pressure and urinalysis, perform abdominal palpation, assess contractions and vaginal loss
- Perform vaginal examination if indicated
- Listen to Fetal Heart Rate (FHR) or perform CTG as indicated
- Discuss with the woman and her support people birth plans and individual requests (pain relief options, position for birth, access to bath, cultural or religious requirements) if in labour
- Document the midwifery findings within the integrated clinical notes, including a midwifery plan of care and risk assessment as per ACM Guidelines for consultation and referral
- Use electronic journey board (EJB) to identify risk status and update with changes (if in birthing services)
- Discuss case with midwife in charge of Birthing Services if any uncertainty about need for medical review
- Admit woman in spontaneous labour at term, with no antenatal or intrapartum risk factors (as per ACM guidelines) under midwifery led care or discharge with follow up plan if appropriate

### **6. DOCUMENTATION**

- Medical record
- Antenatal Yellow Card

## MIDWIFERY ASSESSMENT AND/OR ADMISSION cont'd

### 7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- A guiding principle to the midwifery admission is the concept and philosophy of woman-centred care<sup>3</sup>
- Comprehensive assessment allows midwifery staff to recognise deviations from low risk and refer to the multidisciplinary team appropriately<sup>1</sup>

### 8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP

- Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring MoH GL2018/025
- ACM Guidelines
- Vaginal Examination
- Delivery Suite – Responsibility for Review and Management of Public Patients

### 9. RISK RATING

- Low Risk – Review in 5 years

### 10. NATIONAL STANDARD

- Standard 5 – Comprehensive care

### 11. REFERENCES

- 1 Australian College of Midwives (2014) National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral - 3rd Edition Issue 2
- 2 NSW Ministry of Health GL2018\_025 Maternity - Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring
- 3 Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2013) Midwifery practice decision flowchart  
<https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Frameworks.aspx>

### REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs 7/4/20 (previously titled *Midwifery Admission Guideline*)

Approved Quality & Patient Safety Committee 15/5/14

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs group 6/5/14

Approved Quality Council 18/4/05

Endorsed Maternity Services Clinical Committee 8/3/05

**FOR REVIEW : APRIL 2025**