



**Willapa Harbor Hospital**  
**Precipitous Delivery in the Emergency Department**

Nursing Services

10710

Policy/Procedure

Official (Rev: 1)

## POLICY:

It is the policy of Willapa Harbor Hospital to provide emergency services for the delivery of an infant in which it would be unsafe to transfer the patient. Willapa Harbor Hospital will follow EMTALA Guidelines as they relate to the patient in labor. A medical screening exam will be completed on all patients who present to the emergency department in questionable labor to determine whether an "emergency medical condition" exists. If an "emergency medical condition" exists or if the patient is in active labor, treatment must be instituted.

## Equipment:

Gather, at minimum, the following items into the patient room, preferably the Emergency Department overflow room: infant warmer (with emergent delivery supplies), crash cart, Broselow cart, fetal monitor, oxygenation and suction supplies.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Assist patient to ER room and assist patient to change into hospital gown.
2. Obtain complete vital signs, including fetal heart tones (FHT) using Doppler.
3. Place fetal monitor on patient to monitor contractions and fetal heart rate.
4. Obtain urine sample to check for glucose and protein.
5. ER physician to do complete medical screening exam including vaginal exam to determine dilatation, station, effacement and to determine if delivery is imminent or not.

If delivery is not imminent: minimal dilatation (less than 4 cms) is found, minimal effacement, and patient considered not to be in active labor, prepare for transfer to a hospital where safe delivery can be completed.

If delivery is imminent: don PPE (gown, gloves, etc.), ensure CRNA/RT have been called, and begin process below.

### Medication:

If oxytocin is required, the following administration procedure can be used: [Administering Oxytocin](#)

### Imminent Delivery:

The following procedure may be followed for imminent delivery: [Assisting with Emergent Vaginal Delivery](#)

### Post Delivery:

For the immediately postpartum patient, the following procedure can be used: [Labor: Fourth Stage--Providing Nursing Care.](#)

For the neonate, the following procedures may apply:

If resuscitation is required, remember that our CRNAs are NRP-certified. More information on the procedure for neonatal resuscitation can be found at: [Neonatal Resuscitation.](#)

Review of neonatal assessment can be found at: [Physical Assessment: Performing in the Newborn.](#)

APGAR scoring information may be found at: [Apgar Scoring: Performing.](#)

Expedite transfer of postpartum patient and neonate to an appropriate facility. Both LifeFlight and AirLift NW have excellent neonatal transport capabilities.

## References

Reference Type	Title	Notes
<b>Documents referenced by this document</b>		
Referenced Documents	Administration of Medication: Administering Oxytocin	Nursing Reference Center Plus
Referenced Documents	Vaginal Delivery, Emergent: Assisting with Labor: Fourth Stage-- Providing Nursing Care	Nursing Reference Center Plus
Referenced Documents	Neonatal Resuscitation (Birth throughout Initial Hospitalization): Performing	Nursing Reference Center Plus
Referenced Documents	Physical Assessment in the Newborn	Nursing Reference Center Plus
Referenced Documents	Apgar Scoring: Performing	Nursing Reference Center Plus

### Signed by

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