



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Emergency Evacuation From a Birthing Pool

N.B. Staff should be discouraged from printing this document. This is to avoid the risk of out of date printed versions of the document. The Intranet should be referred to for the current version of the document.

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Introduction

This guideline has been developed to support emergency evacuation procedures from a birthing pool at all sites within Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Policy Statement

This guideline has been produced to support safe and effective practice. Aneurin Bevan Health Board is committed to ensuring that patients who need evacuation from a birth pool and / or resuscitation will be treated promptly, safely and efficiently. The Health Board expects that all staff will be trained and updated in emergency evacuation procedures. This guideline is referenced to Health Care Standards 3,7,12,13,22,26

Aims

This guideline aims to inform staff of the necessary procedures to undertake in the event of a collapsed woman who is unable to move herself, requiring evacuation from a birthing pool by staff members

Objectives

- 1 Safe evacuation of a woman from a birthing pool in order to commence resuscitation procedures
- 2 Safe transfer handling procedures for staff undertaking the evacuation

Scope

- This document relates to all members of staff working within maternity services throughout Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior managers, lead midwives for the birth centre environment and transfer handling cascade trainers are responsible for implementation of this guideline and ensuring that training is undertaken

Emergency Evacuation from Birthing Pool (Including Manual Handling Advice)

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Owner: Maternity Services

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1. Immediate action

- **CALL FOR HELP**

Nominate an identified lead for the evacuation
Nominate a SCRIBE for the evacuation (and possible resuscitation) use
emergency scribe sheets

2222 – ‘maternal collapse’

Birth Centre Staff – Contact on call midwife to come in
Antenatal clinic staff during daytime hours
999 – Emergency Vehicle for transfer out

**YYF/YAB – Consider activating Vocera Badge
and announce ‘URGENT BROADCAST CRASH’,
announce ward name and room number**

DO NOT PULL THE PLUG – Switch **on** the tap and fill the pool to full
capacity. Water will aid buoyancy of the
mother



2. People to assist

- 4 or more people/staff including midwife outside pool
- A staff member should enter the pool at mother's feet



3. Equipment/Environment

- Net
- Flotation aid for the mother's head (or a member of staff to support)
- Bed with foot rest removed
- Plenty of dry towels, sheets and blankets
- 2 full length slide sheets (to be stored in room)

4. Task (preparation)

- Place head support (member of staff / flotation aid) around mother's neck to protect her airway. Assess ABC - Start O2 therapy 15 l per min if needed
- Slide net into the water behind mother's head pushing it down as far as possible. Person in pool (and mother if able) to assist with easing net under buttocks



- Position foot end of bed against pool side by mother's back – same height as edge of pool
- Place dry sheets, towels and slide sheets on bed



5. Action

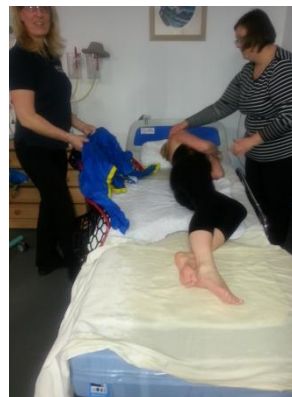
- 3 people outside the pool and member of staff inside the pool to hold the net either side of mother and close to her body
- Adopt a step stance to prepare themselves for the move



- Person in pool kneels at mother's feet and places hands under mother's thighs/buttocks
- Midwife leading the evacuation explains the action to be taken and commands to be used
- The command "**ready, steady, out**" is used by the midwife so that all involved move simultaneously ie staff outside pool transfer their weight from front foot to back foot, as they pull to remove mother from the birth pool. Person in pool pushes mother's legs/buttocks upwards to assist on the word "out" and moves from kneeling to high kneeling during the task to help with their own posture, stable base and mobile balance. *NB Water will assist movement but caution should be taken due to possible increased force required for the upward movement.*
- Mother is slid, head first, on her back via net onto slide sheets onto bed
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- Further commands/movements will be required to ensure mother is safely positioned on the bed. Slide sheets on bed will assist by reducing friction of the pulling forces.
- Staged approach should be used to avoid excessive pulling and over reaching.
- Safer handling principles to be observed at all times during the task (see attached)
- Towels and blankets to be used to keep mother warm out of pool and to mop up excess water. NB Despite slip resistant floor surface the additional water will create a slip hazard. All involved need to take care.
- Roll and dry the mother to remove wet slide sheets and net immediately to start CPR. Remove all wet clothing NB. Ensure the chest / abdomen are completely dry. **Begin CPR in accordance with Resuscitation Council UK guidance for Adult Life Support**



Resources

All areas will require emergency evacuation nets and slide sheets. two slide sheets per area are kept in the pool room alongside the evacuation nets. Consider the use of a neck flotation aid

Training

Training in management of this procedure will be included as part of mandatory transfer handling update sessions within maternity services. Additional sessions will be provided by lead midwives for the birth centre environment staff twice yearly with support where required from minimal handling / health and safety / resuscitation colleagues.

- Records of training will be held by lead midwives / senior midwifery managers

Implementation

Lead midwives for birth centre environments and transfer handling link midwives will be responsible for implementation of this procedure.

Further Information Clinical Documents

- Resuscitation Council UK Guidance for Basic Adult Life Support
- ABHB Midwife Led Care Guideline T Maternal Resuscitation
- ABHB Policy for Safer Manual Handling

Standards for Health Services Wales

This guideline contributes to compliance of the Standards for Health Service Wales through delivering safe, clinically effective care to women and links with Standards 3,7,12,13,22,26

Equality

- This guideline has undergone an equality impact assessment screening process using the toolkit designed by the NHS centre for Equality and Human Rights. No adverse impact has been identified.
- This guideline applies to all women using birth centre facilities throughout Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Audit

Compliance with the guideline will be audited annually by senior midwifery management team and / or supervisors of midwives.

Review

3 years unless legislation requires differently

References

Aneurin Bevan Health Board (2011) External Defibrillation Policy

Aneurin Bevan Health (2009) Board Midwife Led Care Guideline T – Maternal Resuscitation

Resuscitation Council UK (2010) Resuscitation Guidelines 2010
www.resus.org.uk

Appendices

RCM (2012) **Evidence Based Guidelines for Midwifery Led Care in Labour – Immersion in Water for Labour and Birth** RCM, London England