



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Emergency Evacuation From a Birthing Pool Guidelines

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 This is to avoid the risk of out of date printed versions of the document.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.

Introduction

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

Policy Statement

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.

Aims

This guideline outlines the necessary procedures to follow should a collapsed woman require emergency evacuation from a birthing pool.

Objectives

- 1 Outline safe and effective evacuation procedures from a birthing pool to commence resuscitation procedures
- 2 Outline safe transfer handling procedures for staff undertaking the evacuation

Scope

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

Roles and Responsibilities

The Health Board expects that all staff will be trained and updated in emergency evacuation procedures.

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 provided.

Staff members have a personal responsibility to access training days and keep updated in current practices.

This guideline is referenced in Health Care Standards 3,7,12,13,22,26

Emergency Evacuation from Birthing Pool (Including Manual Handling Advice)

Staff requirements

MINIMUM 8 people / staff:

- 1 providing airway support
- 1 entering the pool to support mother's feet
- 4 (minimum) assist with net
- 1 preparation of equipment / environment
- Scribe

Equipment

- Net
- Flotation aid (woggle)
- Bed
- Slide sheets
- Towels

1. Immediate action

- **CALL FOR HELP – pull emergency buzzer**

2222 – 'OBSTETRIC EMERGENCY'

IN THE EVENT OF A CARDIAC ARREST

2222 – CARDIAC ARREST

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

Safe Approach – check for hazards

DO NOT PULL THE PLUG - FILL THE POOL

Fully open the tap and fill the pool to full capacity to allow the water to aid buoyancy of the mother.

Nominate a **LEAD** for the evacuation
Nominate a **SCRIBE**
Gather **EQUIPMENT**

2. Task

- Think **ABC** – protect airway and support head



- Staff member / birth partner enters pool at mothers' feet, to support feet/legs to prevent mother becoming submerged under water and to assist with evacuation. *It may be necessary for staff member to kneel to allow them to get closer to the load (the mothers) to reduce strain upon themselves.*



- Place head support (flotation aid) around mother's neck / or under arms to protect the airway. Assess ABC - Start O2 therapy 15 litres per min if required.
- Gather the net - handles are colour coded for ease-of-use e.g. one side are yellow the other side are blue.



- Take the handles of one colour, stand near the feet of the mother, pass the net into the water under the mothers' knees across the



- Further advance the net underneath the mothers' body until the net is supporting under the mothers' shoulders.



- It is vital to work together as a team and communicate well
- Person leading the evacuation will use commands "**Ready, steady, move**"
- Consider 'BACKUP' principles during the manoeuvre

Before you feel strain, STOP, assess plan and prepare

Adopt a stable base and mobile balance

Carry out tasks in a slow and controlled manner using minimal force

Keep the load close to the body and use a comfortable grip

Use your leg and buttock muscles and your bodyweight.

Protect your posture with head up and nose in line with your toes

3. Prepare Environment.

- Position foot end of bed against pool side, slightly lower than the edge of pool (it may be necessary to remove the access steps from the pool to allow the bed to move into place)
- Appropriately position slide sheets on bed to assist with evacuation; lower slide sheet full length of the bed, top slide sheet gathered towards the bottom third of the bed
- Ensure the brake is applied to the bed



4. Action

- Staff outside the pool hold the net either side of mother
 - Adopt a step stance to prepare for the move.
 - Maintain an appropriate posture when sliding the woman
 - Transfer weight from front foot to back foot
 - Back in natural upright position
 - Elbows tucked into waist
 - Keep the load (the woman) close to you
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- Midwife leading the evacuation explains the action to be taken and commands to be used
 - The command "**ready, steady, out**" are used by the midwife so that all involved move simultaneously. Person in pool supporting legs should elevate them as the woman is moved from the pool.
 - Use gentle pulling action on the net to slide the woman in a controlled manner out of the pool onto the receiving slide sheets

- Slide sheets on bed will assist by reducing friction of the pulling forces. Hold the top slide sheet along with the net to aid the safe transfer up the bed.
- Staged approach should be used to avoid excessive pulling and overreaching.
- Safer handling principles to be observed at all times during the task (BACKUP see above)



- Once safely on the bed turn the mother into left lateral position
- Protect airway if necessary



- 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, remove wet slide sheets and net prior to commencing 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**

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 from the birth centre environment staff annually 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 this guideline will be audited by clinical lead in compliance with the birth centre process.

Review

3 yearly in line with the manual handling updates or more frequent if required.

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 2021
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