

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Emergency Maternity Triage 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 This is to avoid the risk of out-of-date printed versions of the document.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.

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Owner: CEF Maternity Services

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1. Introduction/Overview

The purpose of this guideline is to provide clinicians working within the maternity service evidence-based guidelines

2. Aims/Purpose

- To provide a safe and effective assessment service
- To reduce inappropriate antenatal ward admissions
- To reduce waiting times for women who require an obstetric review
- To ensure prompt assessment of women who require an urgent obstetric opinion
- To ensure that there is an appropriate priority system in place in order to provide timely assessment for women

3. Objectives

This document will hope to achieve a clear form of guidance for clinicians to utilise in their practice when assessing maternity patients in this clinical setting.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all clinicians working within maternity services including temporary staff, locums, bank and agency / annualised hours staff and visiting clinicians.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The midwife working within Admissions Triage will be responsible on a daily basis for:

- Providing leadership and direction.
- Being visible to women and staff.
- Being responsible for the day to day running of Emergency Maternity Triage.
- Completing accurate and contemporaneous documentation, utilising SBAR and triage proformas (see Appendix 1, 2 and 3)
- Acting in accordance with NMC Code of Conduct, Midwifery Rules and Standards within his / her sphere of practice
- Being accountable and autonomous for his / her practice
- Ensuring women are treated with courtesy, dignity and respect at all times

The Obstetric Team will:

- Work as part of a multi-disciplinary team, in partnership with women and their family.
- The Doctor allocated to Triage should liaise with labour or maternity ward if necessary.
- Following review, a plan of care must be clearly documented in the woman's notes.

6. Telephone Assessment

Pregnant women or professionals should be advised to contact the Admissions Triage Unit if they are experiencing any pregnancy related problem from 20/40 up to 28 days postnatal. Women should be encouraged to contact their community midwife for advice in the first instance via designated single point of contact for their Borough.

Telephone Triage

A telephone assessment will be undertaken using the SBAR telephone advice proforma (Appendix 1) and any advice given to the woman will be clearly documented. Whilst telephone advice maybe appropriate for some women, those that require formal assessment should be advised to attend the necessary destination including their GP, Community midwife, Maternity unit or hospital for assessment.

Midwifery Referral

Where a woman has been examined by a midwife and a referral deemed necessary, it is the responsibility of the midwife to liaise with Emergency Maternity Triage. Telephone triage will be an integral part of good triage management. This will ensure that women are referred according to their symptoms:

- To the appropriate area for review by the most appropriate professional and in a timely manner.
- To ensure that Admissions Triage is utilized correctly.

Women should be advised to bring their hand-held records with them. All patients should be assessed for COVID symptoms prior to admission.

7. Criteria for Selecting Women Suitable for Admissions Triage

This list is by no means exhaustive and it is the responsibility of the midwife designated to Emergency Maternity Triage, to decide the appropriateness of the referral.

Emergency Maternity Triage is suitable for women who require an obstetric opinion that cannot be planned for in an antenatal clinic or day assessment unit and may include:

- Absent fetal movements >24hours / suspected IUD
- Altered fetal movements and suspected SROM (Labour, GBS and meconium liquor excluded) outside of DAU hours
- Women who are symptomatic of Pre-Eclampsia
- Women with PV bleeding APH or PPH
- History of Fall or Trauma to abdominal wall
- Suspected preterm pre-labour rupture of membranes (20-36+6/40)
- ROM test positive with no obvious pooling of liquor, consider USS and refer to a senior obstetrician.
- Possible labour and/or abdominal pain
- Obvious SROM with Meconium-stained liquor not post dates
- Shortness of breath, chest pain or query PE
- Women who complain of feeling generally unwell (ante or postnatal)
- Hyperemesis
- Newly elevated Bile Acids (BA)/ Alanine Transaminase (ALT) with assessment for Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy (ICP)
- Suspected DVT
- Follow up assessment from clinical areas such as A&E

It is important to note, not all presenting complaints require obstetric review immediately and will need referral to other departments such as Symptomatic of illnesses such as Gallstones, Appendicitis or Pancreatitis

Ongoing treatment and/or assessment of medical conditions outside of pregnancy

Please refer to Appendix 4 for Pathway of obstetric referrals.

8. Record Keeping

Care provided will be documented and recorded in accordance with the NMC Guidance for Record Keeping (2009), Aneurin Bevan Record Keeping Policy and Health Care Standards. Using the appropriate triage proformas (see Appendix 2 and 3).

9. Pathways of Care

All patients will need observations and urine sample on admission

All women should have their hand-held records reviewed and a full history of the current presenting complaint. Initial assessment must include: -

S - (Situation)

Reason for attendance Description of symptoms

B - (Background)

Obstetric History

Medical / Surgical History

Current medications and known allergies

Recent haemoglobin level, blood group and placental site

A – (Assessment)

Ante natal women

History of vaginal loss

Maternal assessment of fetal movements

Observations and Urinalysis

Abdominal Palpation and SFH Height

FH auscultation (Pinard stethoscope initially, then Doppler or CTG, USS if necessary).

Consider VTE

If clinically necessary vaginal assessment including speculum under 37/40 if completed training (see Appendix 4).

Postnatal women

Observations and Urinalysis

Assessment of breasts, uterus, lochia, legs, bladder and bowel, perineum and/or wound.

Consider VTE, Infant Feeding Choice, Sepsis

R - (Recommendations)

Differential Diagnosis

Management Plan

Medical Review

Follow up with community midwife and/or GP if necessary

Follow up on all investigations (i.e., blood samples)

See Appendix 6-8 for flow charts of care for different clinical scenarios.

10. Resources

There are no resource problems regarding this guideline.

11. Training

Further training is available for all midwives to complete premature speculums from 20/40 pregnant alongside the current practice of speculum examinations from 37/40. These premature examinations should not be completed for any patient with placenta praevia and/ or active PV bleeding. Tests that can be completed alongside this examination include Fetal Fibronectin, ROM tests and HVS. Please see Appendix 5 for the training proforma to be completed by a midwife and witnessed and signed by an Obstetric Registrar or Consultant. A record of completion of this training should be sent to the appropriate line manager.

Specific training for other forms of practice, including sonography and independent prescribing can be completed by midwives and then these skills can be utilised within Emergency Maternity Triage when appropriate and within the limitations of each midwife's scope of practice. Training will need to identified through appraisal and clinical supervision.

12. Implementation

This documented, once approved, should be implemented with immediate effect to work alongside other current guidelines including All Wales Altered Fetal Movements Guideline (see References).

13. Further Information Clinical Documents

Evidence for information within this guideline is multifaceted and includes professional bodies such as Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology (RCOG), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Guidelines such as this need to be reviewed regularly to keep up to date with evidence based practice and this will currently be done on a 3 yearly basis.

14. Health and Care Standards Wales

This section should outline how the proposal contributes to compliance with the Health and Care Standards Wales and should also indicate to which Standards this area of activity is linked.

15. Equality

Local service Improvement Plan will guide monitoring and effectiveness.

This policy has undergone an equality impact assessment screening process using the toolkit designed by the NHS Centre Equality & Human Rights. Details of the screening process for this policy are available from the policy owner.

16. Environmental Impact

No environmental impact assessment will need to be completed.

17. Audit

There will be an annual audit of this guideline.

18. Review

Review of this document will be on a 3 yearly basis unless new evidence requires an earlier review.

19. References

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- 4) National Institute of Health and Care Excellence [NICE]. (2021). *Antenatal care*. [Online]. Last Updated: 19th August 2021. Available at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng201.
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- 7) National Institute of Health and Care Excellence [NICE]. (2021). *Postnatal care*. [Online]. Last Updated: 20th April 2021. Available at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng194.
- 8) QUIPP App Toolkit Group. (2020). QUIPP for staff. [Online]. QUIPP App Toolkit Group. Available at: https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/bapm/redactor2_assets/files/619/3._QUiPP_For_staff_v02.p [Accessed 31 May 2023].
- 9) Shaw, L-E. (2021). *Altered Fetal Movements*. [Online]. All Wales Maternity & Neonatal Network Guidelines. Last Updated: 14th September 2021. Available at: https://wisdom.nhs.wales/all-wales-guidelines/all-wales-altered-fetal-movements.
- 10) Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists [RCOG]. (2022). *Intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy Green-top Guideline No. 43*. [Online]. Last Updated: June 2022. Available at: https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/1471-0528.17206.

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20. Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – Telephone SBAR

NAME	DATE
DOB	TIME
CRN	
	ASSESSMENT BY
INTERPRETER REQUIRED Y/N	ASSESSMENT DI
EDD/ WEEKS PREGNANT	PARITY
GRAVIDA	DAYS POSTNATAL
PARITY	MODE OF DELIVERY
PV LOSS	
MEMBRANES	UTERUS
FETAL MOVEMENTS	PERINEUM
CONTRACTIONS	WOUND
MEDICAL OR OBSTETRIC HISTORY	LOCHIA
	LEGS
	PU/BO
MLC/OLC	REASON FOR CALL
COVID SYMPTOMS Y/N	
REASON FOR CALL	
4	
	_
	RECOMMENDATION
RECENT HB	BRING NOTES
BLOOD GROUP	_
	LFT TESTING FOR VISITORS

APPENDIX 2 - Antenatal Proforma

	NHS Bwrdd lechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
ADDRESSOGRAPH	Date & Time of Phone call: Time of arrival: Time seen:
ABUHB ANTENATAL TRIAGE DOCUM	EDD: / / Gestation: +
Referral type: SELF CMW	GP Gravida Para BMI: Last Hb:
Other:	Placental Site:
Care To and Signature:	Rhesus status:
COVID-19 swab:	GBS Status: POS NEG UNKNO
MLC/CLC CONSULTANT:	Allergies:
CURRENT OBSTETRIC SITUATION:	Obstetric History:
Medical History:	
	Last USS Date and Findings:

		Bwrdd lechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
ADDRESSOGRAPH		
		Date & Time:
Observations:		TIANT TAVEN.
TIME TAKEN:	TIME TAKEN:	TIME TAKEN:
Pulse:	Pulse:	Pulse:
BP:	BP:	BP:
RR:	RR:	RR:
O2 Sats:	O2 Sat:	O2 Sats:
Temp:	Temp:	Temp:
Urinalysis: MSU sent: YES / NO		
MATERNAL ASSESSMEN	П:	
	8 -	

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		c	hecklist to exclude chronic hypoxia and pre-e-	xisting fet:	al la
		1	Baseline fetal heart appropriate for gestation	Yes	
		2	Normal variability and cycling	Yes	
		3	Presence of acceleration (not in labour or latent phase of labour)	Yes	
ADDRESSOGRAPH	1	4	No shallow / late decelerations	Yes	
ADDRESSOGRAFII		5	Consider the wider clinical picture: meconium, temperature, fetal growth retardation, reduced fetal movements	Yes	
	Date & Time:	Ov	erall Impression: Normal/Chronic Hypoxia / Other	er	
			nacement Plan ;		
		-			-
ABDOMINAL PALPATION:	7.5	ELIND	AL HEIGHT:		
LIE:		FMF?	Y/N/REDUCED (circle as appro	priate)	1
PRESENTATION:		CTG N	leeded? Y/N	• 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1: 1:	
FH BPM: Dawes – Redman Criteria M					
Dawes - Reuman Circentary	1011 1710	-		=113810	-
VE/SPECULUM @	COI	NSENT			
EXTERNAL VAGINA AND GE	NITAUA:		POSITION:		
DILATATION:			EFFACEMENT:		
PP:			APPLICATION:		
Liquor? Y/N		Colo			
Discharge? Y/N		HVS	Sent: YES/NO		
ROM test? POS/NEG		Fibro	onectin? POS/NEG		
Bishop Score:					
Stretch and Sweep? Y/N FH POST EXAM:					
Investigations completed:			Results:		
investigations completed.			HB		
			WCC		
			PLTs		
			U&Es		
			LFTs		
			BA		
			PCR		
			CRP		
			COAG		

	é.	Bwrdd lechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	
ADDRESSOGRAPH			
3	Date & Time:		
			_
			-

APPENDIX 3 - Postnatal Proforma

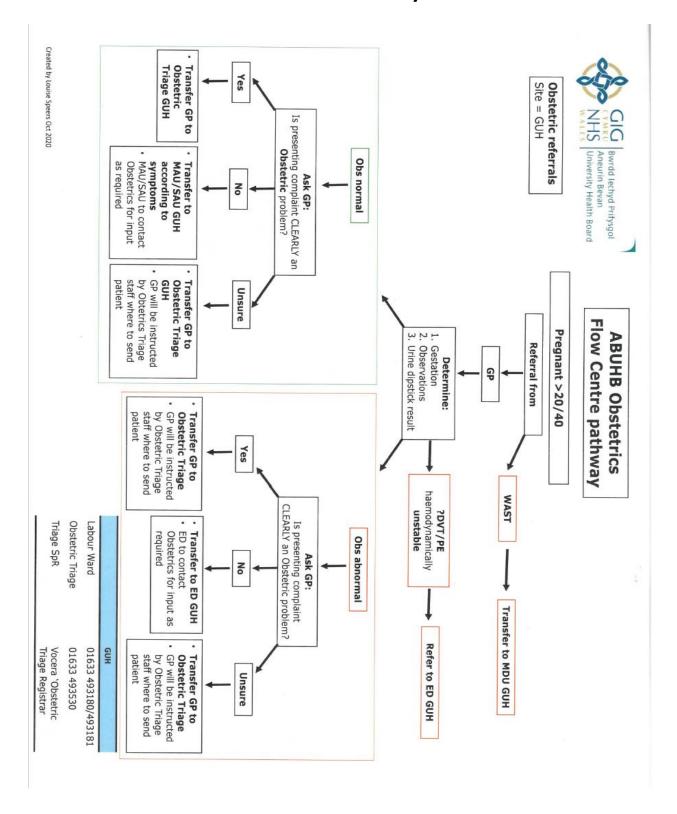
			0	Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgo Aneurin Bevan University Health Boar
ADDRESSOGRAPH				
			Da	ite & Time:
			DIA CE D	OCUMENT
	ABUHB (DBSTETRIC T	RIAGED	OCOMENT
Time of arrival:				Para Day
Referral type:	SELF	CMW	GP	вмі нь
Other:				Delivery:
Care To:				MBL:
Signature:				Rhesus status:
				Allergies:
Consultant :		MLC:		COVID-19 Swab:
CURRENT OB	STETRIC S	ITUATION:	Obstet	ric History
Tresents with				
			1	
			Medica	al History

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ADDRESSOGRAPH		
	Date & Time:	
Maternal Assessment		OBSERVATIONS:
Lochia		Time taken:
Legs		BP
Uterus		P
Wound		R
Perineum		SPO2
Breasts		Urine
Passing Urine? Opened Bowels?		Office
Opened bowers:		
Investigations:		
VTE COMPLETED		
VIE CONFEETED		
Referred to Obstetric Team	Plan: ? Y/N	
ADMIT		
DISCHARGE		

		 Bwrdd lechyd Aneurin Beva University Hea	Prifysgol n alth Board
ADDRESSOGRAPH			
	Date & Time:		
	-		
			50
to the same of the			

APPENDIX 4 – Obstetric Referral Pathway



APPENDIX 5 - Premature Speculum Training

MATERNITY TRIAGE VAGINAL SPECULUM COMPETENCIES

Assessment criteria	Achieved
Identifies indication & rationale for speculum	
Prepares: patient self equipment	
Selects appropriate sized speculum	
Explains procedure to patient	
Obtains verbal consent	
Implements ANNT & PPE	
Demonstrates appropriate procedure & techniqu	2
Demonstrates correct use of FFN & ROM tests	
Communicates findings to patient	
Documentation	N
Achieved Y	N
Participant: Assessor:	Signature: Signature:

APPENDIX 6 - Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) care flowchart

History of DVT

- Unilateral redness, tenderness, swelling or heat to leg/calf needs to attend triage as soon as possible
- ANY history of Pulmonary Embolism (PE) (I.E. shortness of breath, chest pain, cough) needs assessment in A&E



- All staff can complete form on Clinical Workstation (create CWS eform)
- If patient attends triage Mon-Fri 9-3 call 23455 to arrange leg doppler prior to review by obstetric team if possible



- Take FBC, U&Es, Coag samples
- Complete AN/ PN check including observations
- Measure legs, provide Thromboembolitic stockings and request obstetric review
- Give low molecular weight heparin(LMWH) according to patients weight and prescribed dose
 demonstrate administration and safe disposal
- Give sharps box and enough doses of LMWH to last until next working day for leg doppler appointment

Please utilise Thrombosis in Pregnancy and Postpartum period Guideline (see references)

APPENDIX 7 - QUIPP App

3. How to use the QUIPP App



- Free to download on Apple and Android
 – search 'QUiPP'
- However, if a phone is not available or you would to use a website version there is a website version available at: www.quipp.org
- · Decision- support tool

The App interface looks like this for symptomatic women:



- 1. This should be yes because she has arrived at your unit with symptoms
- Cervical surgery includes large loop excision of transformation zone, laser treatments or cone biopsy
- 3. This refers to a spontaneous preterm birth at 36+6 or less
- This refers to a spontaneous premature rupture of membranes in a previous pregnancy
- 5. The app can be used in twins or singletons
- 6. The current gestation of the woman
- Her cervical length via transvaginal scan (within the last 24 hours only).
 If you do not have a result for this please leave this section blank
- 8. The woman's quantitative Fetal Fibronectin result

Press calculate!



This woman has a risk of less than 0.1% of delivering within the next week.

If this was more than 5% you may consider admitting her, giving her steroids and/or transferring to another unit.

You can use the longer term predictions to decide when to see her again.

Please utilise QUIPP App and toolkit (2020) (see references)

APPENDIX 8 - Fibronectin care flowchart

History of Premature Labour Complete full AN assessment including CTG/ FH auscultation, urinalysis and observations in triage

Speculum Examination

- Cannot use lubricating gel if completing FFN as this will alter the result
- FFN cannot be used >34+6/40 gestation, multiple pregnancy, post coital, any significant PV bleeding, SROM or if >3cm dilated
- Complete HVS +/- ROM test if needed

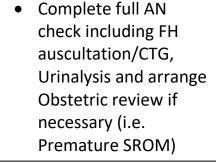
Fibronectin Result and QUIPPs Score

- Await Fibronectin (FFN) result with score whether positive or negative QUIPPs score should be calculated by staff
- If QUIPPs score >5% chance of delivery within 1/52 Corticosteriods should be administered with admission
- If positive FFN with low QUIPPs score, admission without corticosteriods should be considered

Please utilise Labour Ward Guidelines (see references)

APPENDIX 9 - ROM test care flowchart

History of Rupture of Membranes (SROM)





Speculum Examination

 If unable to determine SROM from history or visualising PV loss then perform a speculum examination



ROM test

Please utilise Labour Ward Guidelines (see References)

- If unable to determine SROM from speculum and history, perform ROM test alongside the above
- Swab in posterior fornix and cervical os for 15 seconds, place swab into solution for 15 seconds, and then the replace with dipstick for minimum of 5 minutes
- ROM test is not accurate with significant PV bleeding