

Modified Early Obstetric Warning System Guideline

MEOWS

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Brief Summary of Document:	
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Scope	
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To be read in conjunction with:	
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Owning committee/group	Obstetric Written Documentation Group
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Reviews and updates		
Version no:	Summary of Amendments:	Date Approved:
1	New guideline	Sept 2017

Keywords	Modified Early Warning Scoring Systems help to improve the detection of life threatening illness
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1. INTRODUCTION

The well documented problem of recognising life threatening illness has led to the introduction of a number of early warning scoring systems. A MEOWS is calculated using 5 simple physiological variables.

- Mental response
- pulse rate
- systolic BP
- respiratory rate
- temperature

The principle is that small changes in these 5 variables combined will be seen earlier using MEOWS than waiting for obvious changes in individual variables.

Of all the variables respiratory rate is the most important for assessing the clinical state of a patient but is the one that is least recorded.

Respiratory rate is thought to be the most sensitive indicator of a patient's physiological well being.

2. LEARNING POINTS FROM CRITICAL CARE

Modified Early Warning Scoring Systems improve the detection of life threatening illness. However the detection of life threatening illness alone is of little value. It is the subsequent management that will alter the outcome

3. CRITERIA FOR USE

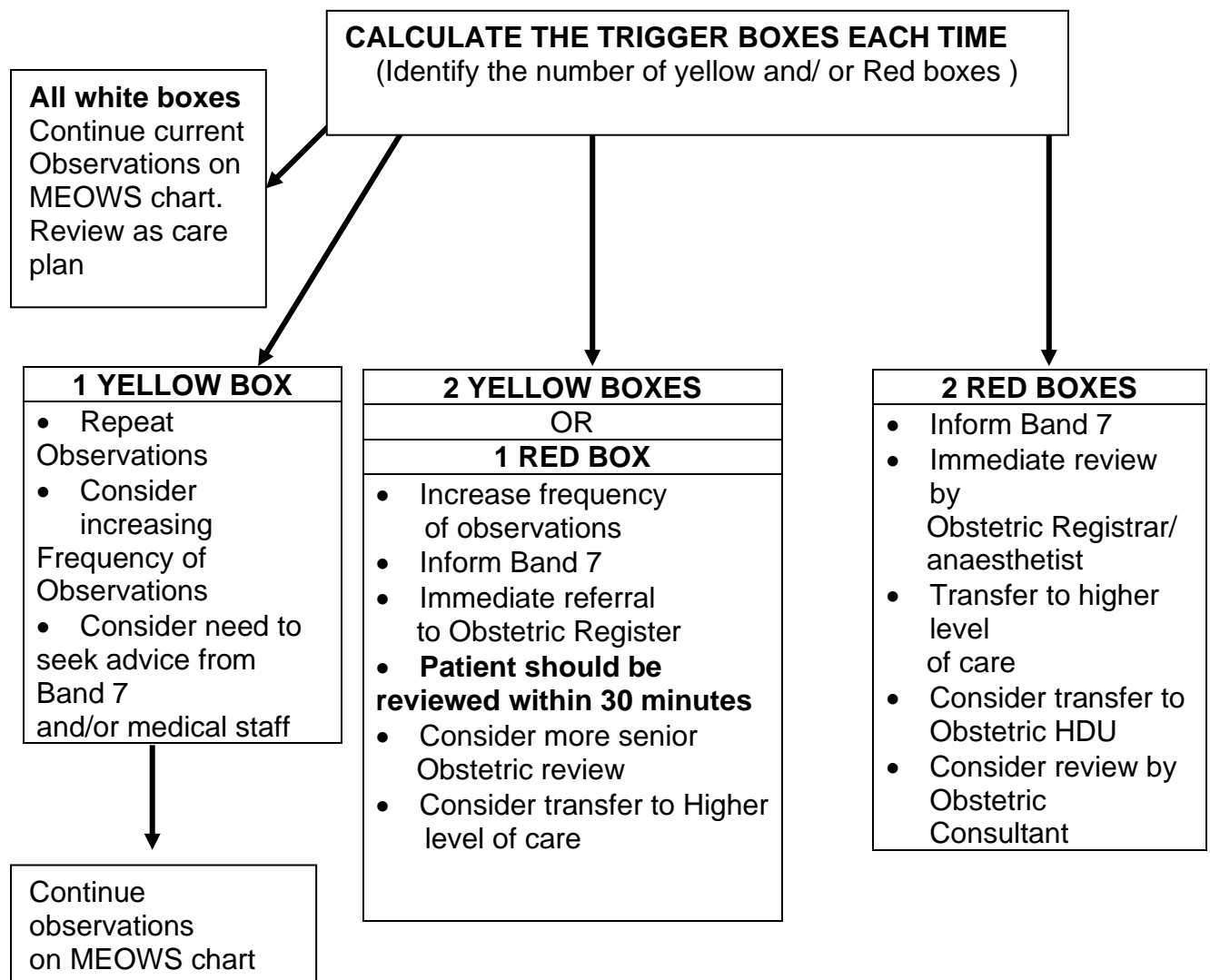
- All woman admitted to maternity ward:
- All post natal women , the form to accompany them home in the notes

4. FREQUENCY OF OBSERVATIONS.

Observations to be recorded as required for individual needs and the frequency documented on the form

Date	Time	Frequency of observations document below	Signature	Print
Note:		For all LSCS after completion of immediate recovery observations recorded in theatre records perform 30 min for 2 hours then hourly for 6 hours. Then reassess and document frequency below		
		12 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 6 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 4 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> ____ hrly		
		12 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 6 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 4 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> ____ hrly		
		12 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 6 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 4 hrly <input type="checkbox"/> ____ hrly		
Exception Box .				
To be signed if Observations decided not appropriate for inpatient admission				
Date and Time		Comment	Print and sign	

5. USING THE MEOWS CHART



6. REFERENCES

NICE (2007) Recognition of and response to acute illness in adults in hospital (CG50)
London: National Institute for Health and clinical excellence

NICE (2006) Postnatal care (CG37) London: National Institute for Health and clinical excellence

Lewis. G (Ed) (2007) Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health, Saving Mother's Lives- Reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer 2003-2005. London:CEMACH

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1000 Lives Transforming Maternity Services. (2012) Improving care, delivering quality. How to Guide 17. www.1000livesplus.wales.nhs.uk