

Use of Specific Green Identification Band for Women who have a Ballon Tamponade (Bakri) or a Vaginal Pack InSitu Guideline

Guideline information

Guideline number: 1004

Classification:
Clinical

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Local Safety Standard for Invasive Procedures (LOCSSIP) reference:
N/A

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) standards:
([NATSSIPStandards](#)) – opens in new tab

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04/09/2024

Approval information

Approved by: Maternity Written Control Documentation Group

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01/08/2024

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04/09/2024

Review date:
01/08/2027

Summary of document:

The aim of this guideline is to provide all clinical staff working within Maternity Services clear guidance on universal application of green identification band to heighten clinicians awareness of when a balloon tamponade (Bakri) or a vaginal pack has been inserted to reduce the likelihood of maternal postoperative complications.

Scope:

The scope of this guideline is equally applicable to all staff responsible for providing maternity care in Hywel Dda.

The guidance uses the term “woman” (pronouns she or her) to describe individuals whose sex assigned at birth was female, whether they identify as female, male or non-binary. It is important to acknowledge it is not only people who identify as women for whom it is necessary to access women’s health and reproductive services. Therefore, this should include people who do not identify themselves as women but who are pregnant or have recently given birth. Obstetric and midwifery services and delivery of care must therefore be appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to the needs of those individuals whose gender identity does not align with the sex that they were assigned at birth.

To be read in conjunction with:

[354 - Standard Infection Prevention and Control Precautions SICPS Policy](#) – opens in new tab

[149 - Hand Hygiene Policy](#) – opens in new tab

Mandatory training policy for Maternity Services

Patient information:

N/A

Owning group:

Maternity Written Control Documentation Group

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Executive Director job title:

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Reviews and updates:

1.0 – New Guideline

2.0 – 3 Yearly Review

Keywords

Green Identification Band, Clinician’s Awareness, Balloon Tamponade (Bakri), Vaginal Pack

Glossary of terms

NMC – Nursing and Midwifery Council

RCOG – The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Key points:

Use of green name bands to heighten clinician awareness where Bakri balloon or vaginal pads are in-situ.

Contents

Guideline information	1
Approval information	1
Scope.....	4
Aim.....	4
Objectives	4
Introduction	4
Application of the Green Identification Band	4
Removal of the Green Identification Band	5
Documentation.....	5
Auditable Standards.....	5
References.....	5

Scope

The scope of this guideline is equally applicable to all staff responsible for providing maternity care in Hywel Dda.

Aim

The aim of this document is to:

- Provide all clinical staff working within Maternity Services clear guidance on universal application of green identification band to heighten clinician's awareness of when a balloon tamponade (Bakri) or a vaginal pack has been inserted to reduce the likelihood of maternal postoperative complications.

Objectives

The aim of this document will be achieved by the following objectives:

- Identify Bakri balloon tamponade and/ or vaginal pack may be used/ retained in woman.
- Identify use of green identification band/s applied to patient to heighten clinicians' awareness that swab or balloon remain in situ.

Introduction

The majority of women have an uncomplicated birth and postnatal period, however there are some clinical situations that require insertion of a balloon tamponade / vaginal pack to reduce the risk of maternal morbidity. These situations may include, but are not limited to, postpartum haemorrhage where uterine atony is the leading cause and where bleeding is unresponsive to pharmaceutical measures and a balloon tamponade is necessary to reduce maternal morbidity. Alternatively where a vaginal pack is necessary to reduce bleeding / haematoma formation following suturing. The decision to insert either a balloon tamponade or vaginal pack remains at the discretion of the operating obstetric clinician and is not within the scope of this guideline to discuss.

Clearly identifying those women who have a balloon tamponade (Bakri) / vaginal pack in-situ, by application of a green identification band, increases the likelihood that it will be removed with an appropriate timeframe.

Application of the Green Identification Band

Following the insertion of a balloon tamponade / vaginal pack it is the responsibility of the attending midwife to ensure that a green band is applied in a timely manner. The band should include the woman's name, the nature of the device e.g. Bakri Balloon and the date of insertion.

The green band should not be removed from the woman's arm whilst the foreign balloon tamponade / vaginal pack remain in-situ.

Clinicians should note that one green band should be used for each device, so if a woman has both a balloon tamponade and a vaginal pack then two separate green bands should be applied.

Removal of the Green Identification Band

Once the bakri balloon / vaginal has been removed by the obstetric clinician, the attending midwife should remove the green band(s) and retain the green band(s) in the patient's main hospital notes, stapling the bands to appropriate postnatal record.

Documentation

It is expected that every episode of care to be clearly documented and as contemporaneously as possible using the approved Hywel Dda labour and birth / postnatal record. This is in line with standards set by governing professional colleges (NMC, RCOG). All entries must have date and time together with signature and printed name.

It should be clearly documented in the labour and birth record / postnatal record the rationale for the insertion of the balloon tamponade / vaginal pack and the specific on-going care plan.

Auditable Standards

- Use of the green identification band when a Bakri balloon tamponade / vaginal pack is in-situ
- Appropriate documentation in the labour and birth record / postnatal care plan
- Associated care plan to reflect insertion
- Appropriate removal and retention of the green band in the maternal main notes

References

HSIB, 2019 Detection of Retained Vaginal Swabs and Tampons Following Childbirth.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-west/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2020/02/HSIB-fullreport-Detection-of-Retained-Vaginal-Swabs-and-Tampons-Following-ChildbirthReport.pdf> – opens in new tab

RCOG, 2017. Prevention and Management of Postpartum Haemorrhage. Green Top Guideline 52