Appendix 2 – Emergency Evacuation from Birthing Pool – Safe System of Work

Emergency Evacuation from Birthing Pool – Safe Systems of Work

Action needed: SUMMON HELP

The midwife will take responsibility for maintaining the woman's airway and ensure her face is held clear of the water

Equipment to be used:

Trolley/bed Evacuation Net Slide sheets

Number of people required:

Minimum of 4 people

DO NOT DRAIN THE POOL

The buoyancy offered by the water will assist staff to position the net and to support and turn the woman

Staff members to assist the midwife to turn the woman so that she is floating on her back (if the woman is sitting on the step then leave her in this position)

Staff member to prepare the trolley/bed in suitable position to receive the woman. Slide sheets should be placed on the trolley/bed to assist with sliding woman onto the trolley/bed

Two members of staff should position the evacuation net under the woman

The lead midwife must move to one side of the woman but remain in charge of the airway

Using clear commands e.g. "Ready, Steady, Slide" slide the woman clear of the pool and on to the trolley/bed

Remove the net and the slide sheets from under the woman once she is safely located on the trolley/bed

Keep the woman warm will towels and blankets and assess