



Maternal Collapse

during COVID pandemic

Originator: Labour Ward Forum
Date Approved: May 2021
Approved by: Quality & Safety Group (W&CH)
Date for Review: May 2024

CONFIRM CARDIAC ARREST

(shake for **response**, feel for **pulse** for 10 seconds, note **time** of arrest)

CALL FOR HELP – Declare “cardiac arrest”

Do not start cardiac compressions until all staff in room are donned in PPE

WHILST WAITING FOR HELP TO ARRIVE:

- Flatten bed
- **Manually displace uterus to the left** (Left tilt if on firm surface)
- Move bed away from wall
- Place O₂ mask on face
- **Attach defibrillator pads** (Assess rhythm and shock if needed (stop O₂ flow for shock, do not remove mask))

Instructions to arriving team:

- Get arrest trolley
- Dial 2222
- Don PPE

“OBSTETRIC CARDIAC ARREST”

to:

- Obstetric team
- Neonatal team
- Adult cardiac arrest team

WHEN TEAM IN FULL PPE:

- **Start Cardiac Compression** at a rate of 100 – 120 / minute
- **Manage Airway** – early intubation
- **Continue CPR 30:2** (continuous chest compression after intubation)
- **Vascular access** IV / IO (FBC, G&S, U&E and ROTEM)
- **Prepare and perform IMMEDIATE peri-mortem delivery** (caesarean section or operative vaginal birth)

ASSESS RHYTHM

Shockable

(VF / Pulseless VT)

1 shock

Continue compressions whilst defibrillator recharging

Immediately resume CPR for 2 mins
Minimise interruptions

DURING CPR:

- Ensure high-quality CPR
- Ensure baby delivered ASAP
- Consider IO if difficult IV access
- High flow O₂ / early intubation
- Adrenaline 1 mg IV/IO every 3-5 min
- Correct reversible causes*

Non-shockable

(Asystole / PEA)

Immediately resume CPR for 2 mins
Minimise interruptions

*Reversible causes:

4 H's: **H**ypovolaemia, **H**ypo/hyperkalaemia/metabolic/hypoglycaemia, **H**ypoxia, **H**ypothermia

4T's: **T**hrombosis (PE/AFE), **T**oxins, **T**ension pneumothorax, **T**amponade

Immediate post-arrest management:

- ABCDE
- Controlled oxygenation & ventilation
- 12-lead ECG
- Treat precipitating cause
- Targeted temperature management

Women & Childrens Services

Checklist for Clinical Guidelines being Submitted for Approval by Quality & Safety Group

Title of Guideline:	Maternal Collapse in Pregnancy and the Puerperium
Name(s) of Author:	Labour Ward Forum
Chair of Group or Committee supporting submission:	Madhuchanda Dey, Labour Ward Forum
Issue / Version No:	2
Next Review / Guideline Expiry:	May 2024
Details of persons included in consultation process:	Consultant Obstetricians Midwives Anaesthetists
Name of Pharmacist (mandatory if drugs involved):	n/a
Please list any policies/guidelines this document will supercede:	Maternal collapse in pregnancy and puerperium
Keywords linked to document:	Cardiorespiratory, Hypovolaemia, Hypoxia, Hypokalaemia, Hyperkalaemia, Hypothermia, Thromboembolism, Toxicity, pneumothorax, Tamponade, puerperium, Covid
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