

Obstetric early-warning response after birth

Standard operating procedure (SOP) | OBS-SOP-006

Document type	Standard operating procedure (SOP)
Title	Obstetric early-warning response after birth
Document ID	{{facility.code}}-OBS-SOP-006
Version and status	1.0 Issued for use. Pending ASF Expert Committee ratification
Prepared by	{{roles.quality_lead.name}}, Quality lead
Reviewed by	{{roles.clinical_director.name}}, Clinical director Date: _____
Approver and signature	{{roles.clinical_director.name}}, Clinical director Signature: _____ Date: _____
Effective date	{{document.effective_date}}
Next review	{{document.review_date}} (12 months, or sooner after any incident or change)
Replaces	None (new document)
Standards and criteria supported	Standard 12 (Obstetrics and Gynaecology), criterion 12.10
Evidence basis	E-006, E-009
Status of this document	Recommended best-practice model. A hospital may adopt, adapt or replace it with an equivalent that meets the same criteria.

At a glance: what to do

1. Each mother is monitored after birth with the obstetric early-warning chart (OBS-FRM-008).
2. A score that reaches the trigger leads to a named clinician review within the set time.
3. A trigger for bleeding or high blood pressure starts the emergency steps in OBS-SOP-001.
4. Each trigger and response is recorded.

Stop and get help straight away if: a score that reaches the trigger is not reviewed, or a bleeding trigger does not start the emergency steps.

1. Purpose

To spot deterioration after birth early, when haemorrhage, infection or high blood pressure can progress fast (12.10).

2. Scope

Applies to	Clinical and support staff in the hospital
Locations	All wards, clinics and departments of {{facility.legal_name}}
When	Whenever the activity described is carried out
Does not apply to	Activities covered by another document listed in section 15

3. Definitions and abbreviations

Term	Meaning in this SOP
Clinical lead	The doctor or nurse in charge of the area at the time

4. Background and rationale

To spot deterioration after birth early, when haemorrhage, infection or high blood pressure can progress fast (12.10).

5. Responsibilities

Role	Duties in this SOP	Competence needed
Midwife in charge	Owens the chart and the triggers	Midwife
Named clinician	Reviews each trigger	Clinician

6. Equipment, materials and resources

Item	Specification or standard	Check before use
Records and forms named in this document	Current version	Checked before use

7. Safety and infection prevention

- Stop and call for help if a patient is at immediate risk. Do not delay urgent care to complete paperwork.

8. Before you start

- Confirm the forms and equipment named in this document are available and current.

9. Procedure

Follow the steps in order. Where a step says "If", take the action for the case that applies. Do not skip a step. If a step cannot be done, use section 11 and section 12.

Step	Action	How to do it	Key point
1	Monitor.	• Score each mother on OBS-FRM-008 at the set frequency after birth.	At the set frequency.
2	Trigger.	• Call a named clinician when the score reaches the trigger.	At the trigger.
3	Respond.	• Review within the set time and start OBS-SOP-001 for bleeding or high blood pressure.	Within the set time.

Decision points

- No decision points in this procedure.

10. Special situations

Situation	What to do
Out of hours	Follow the same steps. Use the on-call contact on the wall of the area.

11. Problems and escalation

- Any serious problem goes to the duty clinical lead at once and to the clinical director the same day.

12. Monitoring and compliance

What is checked	Target	How often	Who	If the target is missed
Triggers reviewed within the set time	100%	Monthly	Midwife in charge	Escalate to medical director

13. Records

Record	Where it is kept	Kept for
Record named in this document	Patient record or the area file	{{facility.records_retention_years}} years

14. Training and competence

- Staff are trained in this document at induction and refreshed each year, with a recorded competency check.

15. Related documents

ID	Title	Relationship
OBS-FRM-008	Obstetric early-warning chart	Chart
HOS-SOP-002	Vital signs and deterioration response (existing, reused)	Procedure

16. Evidence

ID	Source and status
E-009	Based on the WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience (2016) and the WHO Standards for improving quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities (2016).
E-006	ASF Policy Framework v1.2. Adapted.
E-009	ASF Expert Committee consensus.

EC = ASF Expert Committee consensus. Items marked EC are reviewed by the Committee each year.

17. Change history

Version	Date	What changed	Approver and signature
1.0	{{document.effective_date}}	First version	Pending Expert Committee approval