Standard operating procedure (SOP) · OBS-SOP-006 · Version 1.0 · Approved by the ASF Expert Committee

Supports: 12.10

At a glance

- Each mother is monitored after birth with the obstetric early-warning chart (OBS-FRM-008).
- A score that reaches the trigger leads to a named clinician review within the set time.
- A trigger for bleeding or high blood pressure starts the emergency steps in OBS-SOP-001.
- 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 the facility
When	Whenever the activity described is carried out
Does not apply to	Activities covered by another document listed in section 15

3. Definitions

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

4. Background

Haemorrhage, infection and high blood pressure after birth can progress quickly. A recognised obstetric early-warning tool, used on a set schedule, flags the deterioration before the emergency.

5. Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility	Competence
Midwife in charge	Owns the chart and the triggers	Midwife
Named clinician	Reviews each trigger	Clinician

6. Materials and equipment

Item	Requirement	Condition
Records and forms named in this document	Current version	Checked before use

7. Safety

- 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

Step 1. Monitor.

- Score each mother on OBS-FRM-008 at the set frequency after birth.

Key point: At the set frequency.

Step 2. Trigger.

- Call a named clinician when the score reaches the trigger.

Key point: At the trigger.

Step 3. Respond.

- Review within the set time and start OBS-SOP-001 for bleeding or high blood pressure.

Key point: Within the set time.

10. Decision points

- No decision points in this procedure.

11. Special situations

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

12. Escalation

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

13. Monitoring

Measure	Target	Frequency	Owner	If not met
Triggers reviewed within the set time	100%	Monthly	Midwife in charge	Escalate to medical director

14. Records

Record	Kept in	Retention
Record named in this document	Patient record or the area file	the period set by the facility’s records policy years

15. Training

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

16. Related documents

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

17. Evidence

Reference	Note
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.

18. Change history

Version	Date	What changed	Approval
1.0	the date of approval	First version	set Expert Committee approval

E-learning for this document

- **Medical Emergency Protocol Development** (MED-01)

References

- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Policy Framework v1.2. (E-006)
- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Expert Committee consensus on Standard 1. (E-009)

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