Obstetric Haemorrhage
Clinical Guideline

V2.4

December 2019
1. **Aim/Purpose of this Guideline**

1.1 This document guides obstetricians, obstetric anaesthetists, midwives, nurses and maternity support workers (MSW) on the recognition and management of:
- Antepartum Haemorrhage
- Postpartum Haemorrhage
- Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage (MOH) at any time relating to pregnancy

1.2 This guideline should be used in conjunction with related guidelines. These include:
- Severely ill obstetric woman – obstetric High Dependency and the management and early recognition of
- Anaemia in pregnancy and post delivery
- Anti-D
- Interventional radiology role in obstetric major haemorrhage
- Intraoperative blood cell salvage for obstetrics
- MEOWS in detecting seriously ill and deteriorating woman (full title needed)
- Maternal collapse in pregnancy and the puerperium
- Retained placenta
- Women declining blood products
- Maternal transfer by ambulance

1.3 This version supersedes any previous versions of this document.

1.4 **Data Protection Act 2018 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) Legislation**

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1. **The Guidance: Introduction**

2.1. **Please note for emergencies out of hours (17.30-0900 and weekends) contact blood bank via bleep 3320 (NEW 2019)**

**Predisposing risk factors for Obstetric haemorrhage**
- Multiple pregnancy
- Previous PPH
- Pre-eclampsia
- Fetal macrosomia
• Failure to progress in Second stage
• Prolonged third stage
• Retained placenta
• Placenta accreta
• Episiotomy
• Perineal tear
• General anaesthesia

2.2. Definitions of Obstetric Haemorrhage (New 2018)
2.2.1. Minor Antepartum Haemorrhage
Episode of bleeding of less than 500mls from the genital tract during pregnancy (after 24 weeks gestation) and prior to birth of the baby.

2.2.2. Major Antepartum Haemorrhage
Episode of bleeding of more than 500mls from the genital tract during pregnancy (after 24 weeks gestation) and prior to birth of the baby or when clinical signs are suggestive of significant concealed bleeding.

2.2.3. Minor Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage
The loss of 500-1000mls of blood from the genital tract within 24 hours of the birth of a baby.

2.2.4. Major Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage
The loss of over 1000mls of blood from the genital tract within 24 hours of the birth of a baby.

2.2.5. Massive Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage
Blood loss >2000ml or rate of blood loss of 150ml/min, or 50% blood volume loss within 3hrs. It may result in a decrease in haemoglobin (Hb) >40g/l, or an acute transfusion requirement of >4 units. An MOH that triggers the ‘Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage’ protocol is defined as blood loss that is ‘uncontrolled’ and ‘on-going’ with a rate of blood loss of 150mls or more per minute or >2L.

2.2.6. Secondary Postpartum Haemorrhage
Abnormal or excessive bleeding from the birth canal between 24 hours and up to 12 weeks post-delivery.
2.3. **Maternal weight and blood volume (New 2018)**

Maternal weight must be considered in estimating the size of the blood loss and its consequences:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Maternal weight</th>
<th>Estimated total blood volume (ml)</th>
<th>15% blood loss (ml)</th>
<th>30% blood loss (ml)</th>
<th>40% blood loss (ml)</th>
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<td>8000</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>3200</td>
</tr>
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2.4. **Blood loss estimation and recording (New 2018)**

Blood loss estimation can be difficult and the gold standard is to measure blood loss in receivers and to weigh soiled swabs and sheets. All staff have training in blood estimation and weighing on PROMPT training days (New 2018). All loss should be documented and a fluid balance chart used for Major APH and PPH.

2.5. **The Guidance: Antepartum Haemorrhage**

2.5.1. **Causes**

Severe antepartum haemorrhage (APH) occurs in 3-5% of pregnancies. The main differential diagnoses to consider in all APHs are:

- Placenta praevia
- Placental abruption
- Vasa praevia
- Local conditions of cervix, vagina and vulva including malignancies and benign lesions such as polyps and cervical ectropion
- Mild trauma caused by e.g. sexual intercourse and cervical sweeps

2.5.2. **Risk factors for APH include:**

2.5.2.1. **General:** Increased maternal age and parity, multiple pregnancy, smoking and cocaine abuse

2.5.2.2. **Placenta Praevia:** previous caesarean section (10-15%), TOP & D&C, MROP and myomectomy/TCRE

2.5.2.3. **Placental Abruption:** pregnancy Induced Hypertension/PET, FGR, preterm rupture of membranes, fibroids, previous abruption, external trauma, substance abuse, polyhydramnios, low BMI, assisted reproductive techniques and maternal thrombophilia
2.5.3. **Minor APH (New 2018)**

2.5.3.1. A minor APH will usually present as mild bleeding from the genital tract with no other clinical symptoms. Management will be dependent upon the size and cause of the APH.

2.5.3.2. On presentation the midwife should take a full medical, social and obstetric history, documenting risk factors. A MEOWS chart should commenced and fetal movements and CTG performed after 28 weeks (earlier only at Consultant Obstetrician’s request).

2.5.3.3. All women should have obstetric review with no decision regarding admission or discharge to home made without the involvement of an experienced obstetrician (middle grade or consultant).

2.5.3.4. Review the patient within 30 minutes of admission to delivery Suite. If the obstetric team are unavailable, it must be clearly documented in the notes why and when a review is expected. The co-ordinator should review the patient to assess the urgency. If a Dr is required urgently, immediate escalation to the Obstetric Consultant on call should take place. Until the review happens the co-ordinator should be kept up to date with any changes. (New 2019).

2.5.3.5. Obstetric review should include the following:
- History and risk assessment
- Review scan for placenta sit
- Examination to include speculum for lower genital tract lesion (if not placenta praevia)
- Review observations and CTG
- Secure IV access (unless spotting only) and consider IV fluids
- Take blood for FBC and G&S (and Kleihauer) if rhesus negative
- Commence / continue CTG

2.5.3.6. Women presenting with spotting who are no longer bleeding and where placenta praevia has been excluded can go home after a reassuring initial clinical assessment. All women with APH heavier than spotting and women with ongoing bleeding should remain in hospital at least until the bleeding has stopped, usually for 24 hours.

2.5.3.7. Anti-D Ig should be given to non-sensitised RhD-negative women. In the event of recurrent vaginal
bleeding after 20+0 weeks of gestation refer to the Anti D Clinical Guideline

2.6. Major APH

2.6.1. Algorithm for assessment and management of a major APH (New 2018)
2.6.2. **Additional Management considerations for Major APH**

- Kleihauer test should be performed in rhesus D-negative women
- For administration of anti-D refer to separate guideline: Anti-D Immunoglobulin (Anti-D) for the prevention of haemolytic disease of the new-born clinical guideline
- Only when the mother is stable should the viability and condition of the fetus be assessed
- From 28 weeks CTG monitoring should continue until bleeding or significant pain relating to abruption stops. The decision for continuous monitoring at lower gestations should be made by a senior obstetrician
- Consider corticosteroids between 24 and 34+6 weeks’ gestation if preterm birth is anticipated but is not required immediately
- Tocolysis should be avoided in a massive APH or there is evidence of fetal compromise
- If the mother remains unstable despite aggressive resuscitation, delivery may be required to stop the bleeding
- In cases of intra-uterine death, vaginal birth is usually appropriate but anticipates PPH. An emergency caesarean section may be necessary for obstetric reasons e.g. transverse lie or if unable to correct maternal shock
- Remember venous thromboprophylaxis as an inpatient after bleeding has completely settled
- For bleeds unrelated to placenta praevia, a speculum examination must be performed before discharge (if not performed before in this pregnancy) to exclude a non-uterine genital tract cause for bleeding (e.g. cervical cancer)

2.6.3. **Placental abruption**

2.6.3.1. The diagnosis is clinical and ultrasound is poor at confirming the presence of a retro-placental clot. Symptoms include severe abdominal or back pain, uterine irritability or contractions and bleeding which is variable in amount. If uterine pain and tenderness is present in the absence of any revealed bleeding the possibility of abruption remains as the blood loss can be concealed. Maternal compromise may therefore be disproportionate to the apparent blood loss. The uterus is hard and tender on palpation and may be large for dates

2.6.3.2. Assess for pre-eclampsia or fetal growth restriction that may co-exist and further compromise fetal well being

2.6.3.3. Regular clotting studies may be required to exclude or treat disseminated intravascular coagulation
2.6.3.4. Oxytocin (10 iu/ML IM) should be given for the third stage of labour, followed by an Oxytocin infusion to prevent PPH a well recognised risk of abruption.

2.6.4. Placenta Praevia

2.6.4.1. Antenatal management

- The site of placenta praevia and its grade or the distance between the leading edge of the placenta to the internal os should be documented on the ultrasound report. Transvaginal sonography may be required.

- Assessment for placenta accreta by ultrasound (and possibly MRI) is necessary for cases of anterior praevia with previous caesarean section. A plan of care requires a multidisciplinary approach. Refer to the guideline ‘MOH-The role of Interventional Radiologist’ for further information.

- All women with placenta praevia confirmed at the 32 week scan should be referred to the Consultant Obstetrician Antenatal Clinic.

- Outpatient care is appropriate in the absence of bleeding. After an APH, the length of inpatient observation should be individualised and will depend upon the size and frequency of the bleeds and the woman’s social circumstances.

- For major praevia, Caesarean section should be booked for 39 weeks although it may be appropriate at earlier gestations (after maternal steroids) in cases of recurrent or heavy bleeding.

- The option for vaginal delivery should be individualised and involve discussion between a Consultant Obstetrician and the woman. The final decision may require placental localisation assessment at term.

2.6.4.2. Caesarean delivery for placenta praevia

- A minimum of two units of cross-matched red cells must be present on the labour ward and the Haematology Department informed of the case.

- Cell salvage equipment should always be available.

- A senior obstetrician should be present.

- The Anaesthetist should site two wide bore intravenous cannulas prior to starting the procedure.
and may consider a combined spinal epidural or general anaesthetic rather than a spinal depending upon case specific considerations

- The neonatal team should be present

### 2.6.4.3. Management specific to Vasa Praevia

- Commercial tests distinguishing maternal from fetal blood are not validated or locally available and the diagnosis relies on clinical awareness based upon the history and signs of acute fetal compromise disproportionate to the degree of bleeding and maternal condition

- Category 1 caesarean section will usually be required with early cord clamping

### 2.6.4.4. Antenatal Haemorrhage in the community. The Community midwife is expected to:

- Arrange for immediate transfer to the obstetric unit; via 999 ambulance request category 1 transfer (please refer to Maternal Transfer Ambulance Policy)

- Community Midwife should consider siting a cannula (preferably widebore/grey) and administer IV Hartmann’s solution fluid replacement rapidly (Midwives can supply and administer this for use in maternal resuscitation under NMC midwives exemptions, NMC 2011). This must be administered with caution if the woman has known raised blood pressure

- Commence observations of vital signs and document on MEOWS chart.

- Position woman in left lateral tilt/manually displace uterus

- On arrival of paramedic support paramedic to administer high flow facial oxygen via a non-rebreath mask

- Collect and bring all blood soiled materials to aid blood loss estimation

- Support paramedic to liaise with Delivery Suite co-ordinator re expected ETA and approximate
2.7. The Guidance: Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH)

2.7.1. Definition
Primary Post-Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) is the loss of 500ml or more from the genital tract within 24 hours of the birth. Any blood loss that causes deterioration in a woman’s condition may be considered a PPH. Secondary PPH is defined as abnormal or excessive bleeding from the birth canal between 24 hours and 12 weeks postnatally. PPH can be minor 500-1000ml or major > 1000ml

2.7.2. Risk factors
Risk factors can be present at booking or develop antenatally or in labour. All midwives and obstetricians should be alert to identifying these, discussing them with the woman and modifying care plans with comprehensive documentation. Women with risk factors should be advised to deliver in an obstetric unit where further emergency treatment options are available. If a woman has risk factors for PPH these should be highlighted in her notes and a plan of care discussed with the woman covering the Third Stage of labour. The woman should be advised and Active Management of the Third Stage.

2.7.2.1. At booking
- Previous PPH or retained placenta
- Previous LSCS
- BMI >35
- Grandmultiparity (P4 or more)
- Existing uterine anomalies
- Age >40
- Pre-existing bleeding disorders

2.7.2.2. Antenatal
- APH
- Maternal Hb level below 85g/L at onset of labour
- Over distension of the uterus (multiple pregnancy, macrosomia, polyhydramnios)
- Low-lying placenta
- Hypertension
- Therapeutic anticoagulants

2.7.2.3. Intrapartum Risk Factors
- Induction
- Augmentation
- Prolonged 1st and 2nd stage and retained placenta
- Precipitate labour
- Pyrexia in labour
- Operative birth or caesarean section
- Retained placenta
- Lower genital tract trauma
2.7.2.4. Actions in the presence of risk factors

- Document any identified risks clearly in the maternal notes and offer a referral for an appointment with a Consultant Obstetrician during pregnancy

- An individualised care plan should be made following discussion with the woman including recommendation for an actively managed 3rd stage of labour

- Screen for and correct any anaemia

- Early IV access in labour with full blood count, group and save

- Clear communication with obstetric and anaesthetic staff when a woman presents in labour with risk factors for PPH

- Active management of third stage and consider Oxytocin infusion

2.7.3. Communication & Responsibilities

2.7.3.1. Effective communication is the key to management of obstetric haemorrhage. Clear lines of communication are vital between the medical, midwifery and laboratory staff; between junior and senior staff and between different specialties. All discussions should be documented in the maternal notes. The Obstetric haemorrhage proforma should be used to record communication, care and management and secured into the maternal notes on completion.

2.7.3.2. The Obstetric haemorrhage proforma must be used for cases in theatre

2.7.3.3. The labour ward co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring relevant medical, social and obstetric history and events prior to the haemorrhage are communicated clearly to the midwifery, obstetric and anaesthetic staff arriving

2.7.3.4. Once an initial assessment of Major PPH has been made:

- The Obstetric Registrar is responsible for ensuring the Consultant Obstetrician has been contacted, communicating with haematology/ blood transfusion as required and commencing immediate emergency resuscitative management
• The Anaesthetic Registrar is responsible for ensuring the Consultant Anaesthetist has been contacted, communicating with haematology/ blood transfusion as required and commencing immediate emergency resuscitative management.

• The Labour Ward Co-ordinator is responsible for coordinating staff, calling the blood transfusion lab with woman’s details with a summary of the clinical scenario, woman’s name, DOB, Hospital number and woman’s weight), ensuring blood samples are sent and considering needs of the partner and relatives of the woman. This can be delegated to an appropriate member of the team but the overall responsibility lies with the LW coordinator.

• Once informed and/or present the Consultant Obstetrician, Consultant Anaesthetist, haematologist, blood transfusion personnel and labour ward co-ordinator must regularly communicate with one another face to face or by phone before arrival to update the team regarding the situation and agree an ongoing plan of care. This must be clearly documented in the maternity notes and summarised on the PPH proforma.

2.7.4. Home birth & Haemorrhage in the community setting: The Midwife is expected to:

• In the Community setting the Midwife will call Paramedics and arrange emergency transfer to Acute Unit. Community midwives and subsequently the Paramedics will work together as a team to undertake the following actions (To be undertaken simultaneously if there is a 2nd Midwife present

• Call for help by phoning 999 and asking for request category 1 transfer (please refer to Maternal Transfer by Ambulance policy).

• Initiate immediate emergency resuscitative management and assess the cause of the bleeding. Consider tissue, tone, trauma and thrombin (remember bleeding may be concealed)

• Immediately repair vaginal tear if this is the cause of bleeding

• Administer 2nd dose of Oxytocin (Oxytocin 10iu/Ergometrine 500mcg

• Massage uterus expel clots and rub up a contraction

• Community Midwife to site large bore cannula and administer IV Hartmann’s solution fluid replacement rapidly (Midwives can
supply and administer this for use in maternal resuscitation under NMC midwives exemptions, NMC 2011)

- Consider whether bi-manual compression is required
- Insert indwelling catheter
- Commence observations of vital signs and document on MEOWS chart.
- Position woman flat and elevate legs if hypotensive
- Use emergency drugs to stop bleeding in event of uterine atony
- Community Midwife to administer misoprostol (see below)
- Paramedic to administer high flow oxygen with a non-rebreather mask consider use of IV tranexamic acid
- Transfer and inform labour ward of events and estimated time of arrival
- All blood loss should be estimated in the community setting and swabs and blood soiled items brought to hospital to be weighed. Procedures for transferring the women into the obstetric unit should be activated once a 500ml loss is estimated see appendix
- The maternal transfer summary should be commenced as soon as possible to the time the midwife identifies the need for transfer

2.7.5. **Misoprostol**
This is now approved for use by midwives under the RCHT PGD (see PGD on midwives shared drive and is being introduced to community teams by Community Matron, including training for administration. Misoprostol is an effective uterotonic agent in the treatment of PPH and the guidance for community midwives has been updated to reflect this as it has been widely recommended to prevent PPH (International Journal of Women’s Health, 2016, BMJ, 2011; WHO, 2008).

2.7.5.1. Situations for use
If you have undertaken first line management of administering 2nd dose of Oxytocin, inserted catheter and rubbed up a contraction and there is still on-going bleeding this is the next stage of your management

2.7.5.2. Administration
Administer 800 MCG (each tablet is 200 MCG, administer 4 tablets) per rectum (PR)
2.7.5.3. Contraindications for use
Allergy to Cytotec

2.7.5.4. Possible side effects
- Stomach pain
- Diarrhoea (this is the most common effect)
- Chills, rash
- Placenta remaining in the womb after birth

2.7.5.5. Storage
- Do not store above 30°C
- Store in original package

2.7.5.6. Renewing stores (see appendix)
- Contact pharmacy to order 01872 252588
- Record administration in handheld notes and advise hospital Midwife to add to EPMA on arrival to the Acute Unit.

2.7.6. Communication with acute unit
The transferring midwife or second health professional must contact the Delivery suite to inform them of the transfer of the woman
- Royal Cornwall Hospital delivery suite: 01872 252361 / 252365 or 252362
- North Devon District Hospital delivery suite: 01271 322605
- North Devon and Exeter Hospital delivery suite: 01392 406650
- Derriford hospital delivery suite: 01752 763610
- The Situation Background Assessment
- Recommendations (SBARD) tool should be used to communicate the transfer information to both the ambulance service and the receiving unit.

2.7.7. Prior to transfer the midwife must:
- Ensure woman and baby labelled with a hand written wristband
  which is replaced with printed wristbands as per RCHT positive patient identification procedure, on admission to the unit.
- Refer to Maternal transfer by Ambulance Policy
2.8 Primary PPH

2.8.1. Management of a woman with a Primary PPH

**INITIAL ACTIONS**

- Lie flat
- Give high flow oxygen
- Manage uterus
- Expel placenta and roll up contractions
- Bimanual compression
- Intravenous access
- Two large-bore cannulae
- Take blood samples
- FBC, clotting screen, group and cross-match 4 units
- Rapid fluid replacement
- Two litres of crystalloid – Hartmann’s or 0.9% saline
- Observation
- Respiratory rate, pulse, BP, O₂ saturations
- Assess cause
- Allofa
- Transfer to retained placental tissue
- Coagulation

**ONGOING MANAGEMENT**

- Synacthen 50 units/synephrine 100 micrograms IV or oral/IM injection (ergometrine contraindicated if raised BP)
- Synacthen infusion
- 50 units synacthen 1/4 infusion via pump over 4 hours
- Uterine catheter and urine measurement
- Triple bladder, monitor urine output hourly
- Carboprost
- 200 micrograms given I.V. every 15 minutes up to 8 doses
- Misoprostol
- 800 micrograms given per rectum
- Consider Tranexamic Acid
- 0.5 g – 1 g given intravenous

**Massage uterus and bimanual compression & Repair perineal / vaginal / cervical tears**

**Assessment**

- Monitoring
  - Document all observations - use modified obstetric early warning score chart
  - Estimate blood loss/weigh all swabs
  - Accurate fluid balance
- Reassess cause of bleeding
  - Allofa
  - Tissue
  - Retained placental tissue
  - Coagulation
- Blood transfusion/blood products
  - Consider: 0-negative emergency (dose use blood warmer and maintain maternal warmth)
  - FFP, platelets, cryoprecipitate

2.8.1.1. Primary PPH involving an estimated blood loss of 500–1000 ml (and in the absence of clinical signs of shock) should prompt basic measures (close monitoring, intravenous access, full blood count, group and screen) to facilitate resuscitation should it become necessary.

2.8.1.2. In the Hospital Setting staff will call for help:
- coordinator, scribe, runners, obstetric middle grade, SHO and anaesthetist.
  - Lie the woman flat
  - Administer facial oxygen with non rebreathe mask and monitor oxygen saturation levels
  - Continually assess Airway, Breathing, Circulation
  - Massage the uterus and commence bimanual compression. This is tiring - change clinician regularly to maintain effectiveness
  - Assess cause of blood loss remembering the four T’s:
    - Tone - palpate uterus and use uterotonics
    - Tissue - examine placenta and membranes and consider theatre for examination under
anaesthetic (EUA). Remember that clot alone in the cavity may impair contractility

- Trauma- systematically examine the lower genital tract and repair a tear. EUA may be required to identify and access a cervical or fornical tear

- Thrombin- assess for bruising, puncture site ooze and evaluate repeated blood results

- Consider rare causes such as uterine rupture or inversion, broad ligament haematoma and extra genital bleeding (e.g. splenic, liver capsule or adrenal)

- Secondary PPH is usually due to retained products and/or Infection

• Empty the bladder inserting a size 12ch Foleys Indwelling Catheter

• IV access with one (consider two) wide bore cannula

• Take blood for FBC and Group and save as minimum. Cross match and clotting studies if large PPH or maternal compromise

• Intravenous fluids Hartmanns 1000ml stat

• Screen for and treat potential infection. Remember Sepsis 6

• Administer Uterotonic Drugs:
  - repeat bolus oxytocic: Ergometrine 500mcgs (IM or IV
  - with caution) or Syntometrine 500 micrograms/5 IU solution for injection IM or Oxytocin 10 IU/ml units IM (if hypertensive)
  - Oxytocin 40/ IU in N/Saline 0.9% 500ml @125ml/hr IV
  - Misoprostol 800-1000 mcg PR
  - Carboprost 250mcg IM at 15 minute intervals up to a
    - maximum of 8 doses (caution asthma)
    - Tranexamic acid 1g IV (not a uterotonic)

• Early decision for EUA if bleeding on going and inform consultant obstetrician. See MOH section for surgical options
2.8.2. **Documentation**

- Commence full MEOWS assessment including fluid balance, initially at 5 minute intervals then as per MEOWS score.
- Complete documentation, PPH proforma for blood loss over 1000ml (vaginal or caesarean section delivery) and arrange debrief for woman, her family and staff involved
- Datix to Patient Safety

2.8.3. **Postnatal care after PPH (New 2018)**

2.8.3.1. Transfer to postnatal ward only when woman is stable and transfer is agreed with the obstetric team

2.8.3.2. Continue regular MEOWS observations, as per trigger score, on the postnatal ward and these should be repeated immediately if the woman reports bleeding or being unwell. These should be documented in the maternal notes. If observations are abnormal the obstetric team should be asked to review the woman urgently.

2.8.3.3. For bleeds over 1000ml a fluid balance chart should be continued for a minimum of 24 hours post-delivery. If output is abnormal the obstetric team should be asked to review the woman urgently.

2.8.3.4. Women should be informed about signs of bleeding, expected amount of PV bleeding in the postnatal period and when they should inform the midwife of concerns.

2.8.3.5. Women should have an FBC on day 2 or prior to discharge if discharge before day 2. Oral or intravenous iron should be prescribed as directed by the Anaemia in Pregnancy guideline

2.8.3.6. Women should be given an opportunity to discuss their labour and birth and events around their haemorrhage. For larger PPHs this should ideally be with the obstetrician or midwife providing care during the haemorrhage. Implications for future pregnancies and births should be discussed. All discussions should be documented in the maternal notes. Cases of massive obstetric haemorrhage should be offered follow up in the Obstetric clinic.
2.9. The Guidance: Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage

2.9.1. Definitions:
Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage is defined as blood loss >2000ml or rate of blood loss of 150ml/min, or 50% blood volume loss within 3hrs. It may result in a decrease in haemoglobin (Hb) >40g/l, or an acute transfusion requirement of >4 units. An MOH that triggers the ‘Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage’ protocol is defined as blood loss that is ‘uncontrolled’ and ‘on-going’ with a rate of blood loss of 150mls or more per minute or >2L.

2.9.2. Trigger Phrase:
The anaesthetist /obstetrician leading on the management of the massive obstetric haemorrhage must communicate to all members of the clinical team involved in the care of the women that the situation has now become a ‘Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage’ (MOH). The time that the MOH was declared must be noted and documented on the proforma (Appendix 1). Any subsequent communication between the clinical team and other clinical areas e.g. portering personnel and laboratory personnel, must include the trigger phrase of ‘Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage’

2.9.3. Communication and Resuscitation must be simultaneous
CALL FOR HELP – Summon Help - via emergency Buzzer.

2.9.4. Communication pathway:
- Call the senior midwife, resident anaesthetist, Obstetric Registrar and SHO
- Involve senior medical staff early (Senior Anaesthetists and consultant Obstetrician)
- Midwifery coordinator to nominate one person to communicate with lab staff and support services
- Nominated person to call the neonatologist if the baby is alive and undelivered
- Nominated person to call the blood bank (ext. 2500) and alert lab staff that there is a Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage
- Allocate a MSW or porter to be on standby for urgent blood samples/collection of blood
- Consider informing Intervention Radiology team (see separate guideline). This should be done at Consultant level

2.9.5. Resuscitation
- Full A to E assessment and management of Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Drugs/Disability, Exposure and Emergency Surgery
- Oxygen 100% high flow, via reservoir mask
- Full left lateral tilt for APH - Head down, legs up

- Consider warming blanket

- Site two large bore IV cannulae (at least 16 g). Take blood at the same time for urgent cross match (type specific), full blood count (FBC) and coagulation screen.

- Commence a Modified Obstetric Early Warning System (MOEWS) chart including fluid balance monitoring. If the woman is already in theatre the monitoring will be done by the anaesthetist using the appropriate anaesthetic chart and the MOEWS chart will be started when the woman is in recovery.

2.9.6. **Fluid balance**

- Warm all resuscitation fluids and aim to correct hypovolaemia initially with crystalloids

- Consider permissive hypotension – systolic BP <85mmHg

- If a blood transfusion is required urgently and a delay anticipated in receiving group specific blood, consider the use of 0 Rhesus negative blood in Maternity blood fridge.

- Dextrans are hazardous and should not be used in obstetric practice

- Restore normovolaemia, monitor Hb and haematocrit, use nearside patient testing (HaemaCue)

- If the MOH trigger is called, request ‘Obstetric Haemostatic Pack’ from lab (ext. 2500). Pack 1 contains 4 units of type specific blood. Pack 2 will automatically follow pack 1 unless blood bank is asked to stand down. Pack 2 will contain FFP and platelets (which should be given on arrival) and a further 4 units of cross matched blood. Pack 3 contains FFP, 4 X red cells, platelets and Cryoprecipitate

- Use FBC, coagulation studies, fibrinogen levels and haematology advice to guide the use of further blood products: FFP (for clotting factors), cryoprecipitate (for fibrinogen), platelets (to maintain >50x10^9/l).

- Re-infusion of blood from the cell saver can be given through a normal blood giving set. Even though a Leucodepletion filter is recommended, it may not be appropriate for acute resuscitation as this will slow the reinfusion (see Obstetric Cell Salvage guideline). Cell Saver blood must be prescribed.
2.9.7. Monitoring
- Monitor heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and temperature at 15 minute intervals
- Record MEOWS score
- Catheterise and record urine output hourly
- Blood gases and lactate as advised by anaesthetist
- Consider invasive monitoring to guide ongoing therapy (A-line, CVP line)
- CTG +/- ultrasound if antenatal
- Uterine height/tone/contractility and vaginal blood loss

2.9.8. Clinical Management
- If antenatal: consider expediting delivery
- If postnatal: rub up contraction and commence bimanual compression. This is tiring - change clinician regularly to maintain effectiveness
- Transfer to theatre early for further resuscitation and possible surgery
- Request ODP to set up cell saver
- Start medical management (for postpartum cases):
  - Oxytocin 40iu in 500mls Normal Saline given at 125mls/per hour for 4 hrs (10iu per hour)
  - Ergometrine 500mcg IM or IV (NOT if raised BP)
  - Carboprost 250mcg given deep IM every 15 minutes up to 8 doses (NOT if asthmatic)
  - Misoprostol 800mcg PR
  - Tranexamic acid 1g IV

- Surgical manoeuvres:
  - Bakri balloon
  - Vaginal pack
  - B Lynch suture
  - Ligation of uterine and then internal iliac arteries (but not if considering Intervention Radiology)
  - Consider role of interventional radiology
  - Hysterectomy (involve second consultant in decision if time allows and additional skills required). Don’t delay decision

- Post-operative care:
- Multidisciplinary decision to determine requirements for ICU/HDU care
- Inform blood bank of resolution of MOH
- Consider prophylactic antibiotics
- Blood transfusion to be avoided after acute management unless very symptomatic
- Consider intravenous iron
- Venous thromboprophylaxis should be commenced after haemostasis is secured due to prothrombotic state developing after major haemorrhage
- Debrief the woman and her partner

- Documentation:
  - Complete MOH proforma
  - Datix to Risk Management

### 3. Monitoring compliance and effectiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element to be monitored</th>
<th>See audit appendix 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Audit midwife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool</td>
<td>Excel and audit – Refer to Appendix 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Individual cases identified via Patient Safety meeting and Maternity Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting arrangements</td>
<td>A formal report of the results will be received at the Maternity Forum / Clinical Audit Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting on recommendations and Lead(s)</td>
<td>Any deficiencies identified will be discussed at the Maternity forum / Clinical Audit Forum and an action plan developed. Action leads will be identified and a time frame for the action to be completed. The action plan will be monitored by Maternity Forum / Clinical Audit Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in practice and lessons to be shared</td>
<td>Required changes to practice will be identified and actioned within a time frame agreed on the action plan. A lead member of the forum will be identified to take each change forward where appropriate. The results of the audits will be distributed to all staff through the Patient Safety Newsletter and Maternity Forum.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Equality and Diversity

4.1. This document complies with the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust service Equality and Diversity statement which can be found in the 'Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights Policy' or the Equality and Diversity website.

4.2. Equality Impact Assessment

The Initial Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form is at Appendix 2.
## Appendix 1. Governance Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Issued/Approved:</strong></td>
<td>December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Valid From:</strong></td>
<td>December 2019 (<em>partial update</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Valid To:</strong></td>
<td>March 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Directorate / Department responsible (author/owner):</strong></td>
<td>Rob Holmes and Karen Watkins, Obstetric Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact details:</strong></td>
<td>01872 252730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief summary of contents</strong></td>
<td>This guidance is for obstetricians, obstetric anesthetists, midwives, nurses and maternity support workers and gives guidance on the management of Obstetric Haemorrhage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suggested Keywords:</strong></td>
<td>Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage, post-partum haemorrhage, PPH, ante partum haemorrhage, APH, praevia, abruption, vasa praevia, accrete, maternal collapse, bleeding, MOH, FFP, Bakri, embolization, cell salvage, oxytocin, platelets, Ergometrine, Misoprostol, Carboprost, interventional radiologist, B Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Audience</strong></td>
<td>RCHT [✓], CFT, KCCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Director responsible for Policy:</strong></td>
<td>Medical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date revised:</strong></td>
<td>December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>This document replaces (exact title of previous version):</strong></td>
<td>Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approval route (names of committees)/consultation:</strong></td>
<td>Midwifery Guidelines Group PRG Care Group Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Care Group General Manager confirming approval processes</strong></td>
<td>Debra Shields, Care Group Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name and Post Title of additional signatories</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name and Signature of Care Group/Directorate Governance Lead</strong></td>
<td>(Original Copy Signed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confirming approval by specialty and care group management meetings</td>
<td>Name: Caroline Amukusana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature of Executive Director giving approval</td>
<td>(Original Copy Signed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Location (refer to Policy on Policies – Approvals and Ratification):</td>
<td>Internet &amp; Intranet ✔ Intranet Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Library Folder/Sub Folder</td>
<td>Clinical / Midwifery and Obstetrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links to key external standards</td>
<td>None required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Related Documents:
- PROMPT (2016) Practical Obstetric Multi-professional Training
- BMJ (2011) Misoprostol for the management of postpartum haemorrhage
- WHO (2008) Misoprostol to prevent and treat postpartum haemorrhage: a systematic review and metaanalysis of maternal deaths and dose related side effects
- RCOG: Antepartum Haemorrhage (Green-top Guideline No. 63, 2011)
- RCOG: Placenta Praevia, Placenta Praevia Accreta and Vasa Praevia: Diagnosis and Management (Green-top Guideline No. 27, 2011)
- BJA-CEACCP: Massive haemorrhage in pregnancy volume 5 number 6 (2005)
- The Scottish obstetric guidelines and audit project; The Management of PPH (Updated March 2002)
- Frca.co.uk (Emergency treatment of obstetric haemorrhage) Blood transfusion and the anaesthetist: management of massive haemorrhage. AAGBI (Oct 2010)

| Training Need Identified? | Yes, 2018-training action plan for community midwives to undertake cannulation training-see Training Needs Analysis Use of Misoprostol is included in annual PROMPT training and is being cascade trained by community team leaders and |

Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4
Page 23 of 38
## Version Control Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version No</th>
<th>Summary of Changes</th>
<th>Changes Made by (Name and Job Title)</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2008</td>
<td>V1.0</td>
<td>Initial version</td>
<td>Dr Catherine Ralph Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>V1.1</td>
<td>Inclusion of massive obstetric haemorrhage trigger phrase</td>
<td>Dr Catherine Ralph Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>V1.2</td>
<td>Compliance monitoring tool added</td>
<td>Dr Catherine Ralph Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
<td>V1.3</td>
<td>Changes to compliance monitoring only</td>
<td>Jan Clarkson Maternity Risk Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>V1.4</td>
<td>If a blood transfusion is required and a delay is anticipated in receiving group specific blood, use 0 Rhesus negative blood.</td>
<td>Jan Clarkson Maternity Risk Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| October 2013| V1.5       | Added: If bleeding continues: (Request Obstetric Haemostatic Pack from lab) pack 1 contains 6 units of cross matched blood, pack 2 will automatically follow pack 1 unless blood bank is asked to stand down, and that will contain FFP and platelets (which should be given on arrival) and a further 6 units of cross matched blood  
Alteration: Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) is only produced upon request or routinely with second pack. Changed blood g/dl to g/l. | Jan Clarkson Maternity Risk Manager                           |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Changes</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th March 2014</td>
<td>V1.6</td>
<td>Added drug doses of uterotonics:</td>
<td>Dr Catherine Ralph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Oxytocin 40iu in 500mls Normal Saline given at 125mls/per hour for 4 hrs (10iu per hour).</td>
<td>Consultant Anaesthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ergometrine 500mcg, given IM or IV (NOT if raised BP).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Carboprost 250mcg given deep IM every 15 minutes up to 8 doses (NOT if asthmatic).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Misoprostol 800mcg PR or PV, (avoid PV if using cell salvage).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Changed: 4gd/l to 40g/l in line with current Hb levels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th February 2017</td>
<td>V1.7</td>
<td>Flow chart added and minor changes and merging of Major Obstetric Haemorrhage (MoH) Clinical guideline and Post Partum Haemorrhage and addition of Antepartum Haemorrhage section Pack 3 added in line with recommendation from Dr Stephen Bassey</td>
<td>Mr Rob Holmes. Consultant Obstetrician Dr Catherine Ralph, Consultant Anaesthetist Dr Stephen Bassey, Consultant Transfusion Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th September 17</td>
<td>V1.8</td>
<td>Risk Factors Communication pathway to alert team Care of APH in the community Care of PPH in the community Communication between community and main unit. Guideline to flow form APH, PPH to MoH Flow charts added as appendices</td>
<td>Trudie Roberts Maternity Matron Community and Karen Watkins, Obstetric Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th March 2018</td>
<td>V2.0</td>
<td>See New 2018 in body of text Syntocinon replaced with Oxytocin Algorithms added to 3.4.1 and 4.6.1</td>
<td>Rob Holmes, Consultant Anaesthetist and Helen Odell, Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6.4.4 updated with Community Midwife responsibilities during APH regarding cannulation and administration of IV Hartmann’s fluid replacement, communication with Delivery Suite co-ordinator, collecting blood soiled material and supporting paramedic

2.7.5 Misoprostol administration and community midwife responsibility to cannulate and administer IV Hartmann’s and clear care pathway for PPH in the community setting added

Sarah-Jane Pedler, Practice Development Midwife

7 June 2018 V2.2
Section 2.7.5 PGD for Misoprostol, sign post added to view PGD
Charlotte Boswell, Community Midwife

August 2019 V2.3
Section 2.5.3.4 added following recommendations from the Health Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB) regarding escalation.
Sarah-Jane Pedler, Practice Development Midwife

December 2019 V2.4
Section 2.1 updated re blood bank contact
Sarah-Jane Pedler, Practice Development Midwife

All or part of this document can be released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

This document is to be retained for 10 years from the date of expiry.
This document is only valid on the day of printing

Controlled Document
This document has been created following the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Policy for the Development and Management of Knowledge, Procedural and Web Documents (The Policy on Policies). It should not be altered in any way without the express permission of the author or their Line Manager.
## Appendix 2. Initial Equality Impact Assessment Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the strategy / policy / proposal / service function to be assessed</th>
<th>Directorate and service area:</th>
<th>New or existing document:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4</td>
<td>Obs and gynae directorate</td>
<td>Existing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of individual completing assessment:</th>
<th>Telephone:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rob Holmes</td>
<td>01872 252730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Policy Aim***

   *Who is the strategy / policy / proposal / service function aimed at?*

   To give guidance to obstetricians, obstetric anaesthetists, midwives, nurses and maternity support workers on the management of Antepartum Haemorrhage, Postpartum Haemorrhage and Major Obstetric Haemorrhage.

2. **Policy Objectives***

   To ensure timely recognition and management of Antepartum Haemorrhage, Postpartum Haemorrhage and Major Obstetric Haemorrhage.

3. **Policy – intended Outcomes***

   Safe outcome for pregnant or newly delivered women.

4. **How will you measure the outcome?**

   Compliance monitoring.

5. **Who is intended to benefit from the policy?**

   Pregnant and newly delivered women.

6a **Who did you consult with**

   Workforce | Patients | Local groups | External organisations | Other |
   --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
   x | | | | |

   b). Please identify the groups who have been consulted about this procedure.

   Maternity Guidelines Group
   Maternity Governance
   Obstetrics and Gynaecology Directorate
   Policy Review group
   Divisional Board for approval

7. **What was the outcome of the consultation?**

   Guideline agreed

---

### 7. The Impact

Please complete the following table. If you are unsure/don’t know if there is a negative impact you need to repeat the consultation step.
Are there concerns that the policy could have differential impact on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equality Strands:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Rationale for Assessment / Existing Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male, female, trans-gender / gender reassignment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race / Ethnic communities /groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability - Learning disability, physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental health conditions and some long term health conditions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion / other beliefs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage and Civil partnership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy and maternity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Orientation, Bisexual, Gay, heterosexual, Lesbian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will need to continue to a full Equality Impact Assessment if the following have been highlighted:

- You have ticked “Yes” in any column above and
- No consultation or evidence of there being consultation- this excludes any policies which have been identified as not requiring consultation. or
- Major this relates to service redesign or development

8. Please indicate if a full equality analysis is recommended. | Yes | No | x |

9. If you are not recommending a Full Impact assessment please explain why.

Date of completion and submission: December 2019

Members approving screening assessment: Policy Review Group (PRG)

APPROVED

This EIA will not be uploaded to the Trust website without the approval of the Policy Review Group.

A summary of the results will be published on the Trust’s web site.
Appendix 3

Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust
Directorate of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Obstetric Haemorrhage Summary Proforma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and time of Haemorrhage</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location of delivery</td>
<td>RCHT / Penrice / Helston / Home / St Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery</td>
<td>NVD / Kiwi Ventouse / Forceps / LSCS / Vaginal Breech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and Time of delivery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total blood loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time transfer to RCHT (if community site)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary source of bleeding -</td>
<td>Uterine atony / retained placenta / genital tract trauma / Other (please state………………………………………….</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary source of bleeding -</td>
<td>Uterine atony / retained placenta / genital tract trauma / Other (please state………………………………………….</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Name</th>
<th>Time called / Time arrived</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivery suite coordinator</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric Registrar</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetric SHO</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Anaesthetist:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant Obstetrician:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Anaesthetist:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODP:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood bank informed:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSW/Porter on standby for urgent samples/blood collection:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage’
Trigger phrase. Yes/NA Time:
Obstetric haemostatic pack Requested by Yes/NA Time
Interventional radiologist: Yes/NA Time
Other personnel involved:

Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4
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Time commenced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facial oxygen</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEOWS chart/observations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intravenous access – 2 large bore cannulae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBC, clotting, G&amp;S or cross match &amp; sent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundal massage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urethral catheter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bimanual compression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In to theatre (management to continue on green op sheet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use MEOWS chart for observations and, fluid input and output

### Summary of fluid replacement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Total Volume Given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal Saline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartmann's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gelofusine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood – cross-matched</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood – O Rh - ve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other i.e. Fresh Frozen Plasma(FFP) /Cryo/ Platelets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary Uterotonic used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Dose and Route of administration</th>
<th>Number of times given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntrometrine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxytocin/Ergometrine bolus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxytocin infusion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemabate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misoprostol</td>
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</table>

### Serial Haemoglobin (Hb) & Clotting Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date / Time</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name……………………………………………………………………
Signature……………………………………………… Date…………………

Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4  
Page 30 of 38
Appendix 4.

SWASFT AMBULANCE TRANSFER: MATERNAL and NEONATAL

The ambulance service provides a Category 1 (New 2018) emergency response that will not be diverted to other incidents for patients who are in cardiac arrest or an immediately life threatening situation. Examples of situations requiring a Category 1 response are:

- Active seizure/eclamptic fit
- PPH - significant uncontrolled bleeding with maternal compromise
- Delayed first and second stage labour with confirmed fetal compromise
- APH – significant blood loss/signs of abruption with confirmed maternal compromise
- Fetal bradycardia and birth not imminent
- Thick meconium with confirmed fetal compromise
- Cord prolapse
- Shoulder dystocia in which the baby has been unable to be delivered
- Neonatal resuscitation

In exceptional circumstances a woman may not meet the definition for a Category 1 response but you may feel that a Category 1 response is required e.g. PPH where immediate transfer from a birth centre/home is required. In these circumstances please apply the following procedure:

- Dial 999
- When asked what is wrong with the patient state that they are in peri-arrest; this will initially trigger a Category 2 (New 2018) response
- When triage commences, advise the call taker that you require a Category 1 response and you wish to speak immediately to a clinical supervisor
- Once transferred to the Clinical Supervisor explain the situation. Where it is agreed to be appropriate, the Clinical Supervisor will over-ride the system and confirm a response

The call sequence above is only to be used for those patients deemed to be suffering an immediate threat to life.

For all other emergencies, a Category 2 level ‘lights and sirens’ response will still be provided but may be diverted to more serious Category 1 calls. Category 2 calls will not be diverted to lower level categories. Examples of situations given by SWASFT requiring a Category 2 response are:

- PPH – minimal bleeding and no patient compromise
- Thin meconium – no suspected fetal compromise
- Delayed first and second stage labour with suspected fetal compromise
- Uncomplicated fetal tachycardia
- APH – small amount of blood loss but no maternal compromise
• Retained placenta
You can also request an urgent ambulance response within 1, 2 or 4 hours for incidents not deemed.

The following examples provided by RCHT may be considered as urgent but not **Category 1** or **Category 2**:

• Delay in progress of labour
• Maternal observations deviating from normal but woman asymptomatic and MEOWs score is 4 or less
• Meconium Liquor and birth not imminent
• Request for further analgesia
• Perineal repair requiring obstetric intervention where bleeding is no concern
• Small APH with no maternal compromise
• Retained placenta without significant blood loss
• Baby born in the community who did not meet the criteria for community birth*
• Baby born with minor abnormality not causing compromise but requiring paediatric assessment*
• Baby born IUGR requiring paediatric assessment*

*These babies can be managed appropriately in the community while you await the ambulance, making sure the baby is kept warm, infant feeding has commenced and the parents are advised appropriately.
Appendix 5.

Community Midwife Immediate Action

Stop the Bleeding

Call for Help
999 call for ambulance requesting Category 1 response (see appendix 4) for maternal transfer to obstetric unit. State haemorrhage.
   By first / second midwife or relative.

Further action needed?

- Lie flat give oxygen (high flow)
  Commence MEOWS

- Massage Uterus
  Expel clots and rub up a contraction.

- Insert Urinary catheter and commence hourly measurement via fluid balance chart.

- Repeat Oxytocin drug/
  Ergometrine

Midwife 1
Bimanual compression/ repair tears

Midwife 2
Massage uterus
Paramedic commence high flow facial oxygen, cannulate and replace fluids

Obstetric Haemorrhage Clinical Guideline V2.4
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Appendix 6.
Massive Obstetric Haemorrhage (MoH) in acute unit flow chart

### Communication
- Call Coordinator, Obs SHO and middle grade
- Call Anaesthetist on call (+/- neonatologist)
- Early Consultant Obs and senior Anaesthetic input
- Call blood bank (ex 2500) Declare MOH – send FBC, Urgent X match Allocate MSW, scribe and porter

### Resuscitation
- Oxygen, left lateral (APH), warming
- 2 large bore cannulae- take samples for FBC, URGENT X match
- Crystalloid
- (O Negative blood)

### Blood / coagulation
- 1st Obstetric Haemostatic pack : 4 x red cells
- 2nd pack: FFP, 4 x red cells and platelets
- 3rd pack FFP, 4 X red cells, platelets and Cryoprecipitate

FBC, clotting and fibrinogen levels- as guided by clinical status. Haematology advice for extensive replacement
- Remember cell salvage per abdomen
- Remember to stand blood bank down

### Monitoring
- Start MEOWS
- HR, BP, RR, O₂ sat, temp
- Catheterise and urine output
- ABG and lactate as per anaesthetist
- ?A-line / CVP line
- CTG once mother stable
- Uterine height / tone and vaginal blood loss

### Initial treatment
- Antenatal: consider expediting delivery
- Postnatal: rub up contraction and maintain bi-manual
- Transfer early to theatre for resuscitation +/- surgery

### Medical treatment (postpartum)
- Oxytocin (40iu/500ml saline at 125ml/hr)
- Ergometrine 500 µg IM/IV (if no raised BP)
- Carboprost 250µg IM every 15 mins (max x8)
- Misoprostol 800µg PR
- Tranexamic acid 1g IV

### Surgical treatment
- (delivery)
- Bakri balloon
- Vaginal pack
- B Lynch suture
- Uterine / int. iliac ligation (not if IR)
- Hysterectomy
- Interventional radiology (IR)

### On-going care
- ? ITU /HDU
- Consider antibiotics
- Consider IV iron
- VTE prophylaxis
- De-brief family and staff

### Documentation
- Contemporaneously during events (scribe)
- Complete MOH proforma
- Risk Management Datix
Appendix 7.
Misoprostol 200mcg tablets Community Midwives order sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordered by</th>
<th>Dispensed by Print</th>
<th>Dispensed by Signed</th>
<th>Received by Print</th>
<th>Received by Print</th>
<th>Given to Print or patient label</th>
<th>Strength given</th>
<th>Given by Print</th>
<th>Given by</th>
<th>On what date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emergency pharmaceutical treatment of postpartum haemorrhage in the community setting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First line</th>
<th>Second Line</th>
<th>Third Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntometrine 500mcg</td>
<td>Ergometrine 500mcg Im</td>
<td>Misoprostol 800mcg PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ergometrine with 5 units oxytocin. IM OR</td>
<td>Oxytocin 10 units IM (raised BP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix 8. Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

**Guideline Audit Tool**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicable Guideline</th>
<th>Obstetric Haemorrhage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit Register Number</td>
<td>(For audit use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Retrospective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Date</td>
<td>(For audit use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>(For audit use)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Audit Questions minor APH (see MOH if appropriate)**

1. On presentation was a full medical and obstetric history taken?
2. Was a MEOWS calculated?
3. If >28/40 was a CTG commenced?
4. Was the woman reviewed within 30 minutes of presenting to the unit by and SpR or consultant obstetrician?
5. If Rhesus negative was a Kleihauer taken and anti-D administered appropriately if >20 weeks gestation?
6. *If significant APH was an FBC and G+S taken and sent?*
7. *If significant was a cannula sighted?*
8. *If significant was the woman advised to remain as an inpatient until bleeding had settled or 24 hours (whichever is longer)?*

**Audit Questions Placenta praevia**

1. Was the grade and distance between leading edge of placenta to the internal os documented on the USS report?
2. If anterior and previous CS was the lady investigated for placenta accreta?
3. If placenta praevia confirmed at 32 weeks gestation was a referral to the consultant clinic?
4. If major praevia noted then was a CS booked for 39 weeks gestation?
5. If CS booked for placenta praevia were 2 units of red cells should be cross matched?
6. Was the CS performed by a senior obstetrician?
7. If a CS was performed were 2 wide bore cannulas sited?
8. Was the neonatal team present for delivery?

**Audit Questions Abruptio**

1. Once diagnosed was the woman assessed for pre-eclampsia?
2. Was 10iu Oxytocin given IM post delivery?
3. Was 40iu Oxytocin: 500ml NaCl 0.9% 500ml run as an infusion after delivery to prevent PPH?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Questions PPH (500mls-999mls)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Were risk factors present?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous PPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous LSCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI &gt;35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;P4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uterine anomalies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal age &gt;40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-existing bleeding disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal HB &lt;85g/L at labour onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over distension of the uterus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low lying placenta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic anticoagulants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> If risk factors present was woman advised to deliver in Obstetric lead unit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Was an appointment at the obstetric clinic made during the pregnancy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Were any intrapartum risk factors identified?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augmentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolonged 1st or 2nd stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained placenta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precipitate labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrexia in labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operative birth or CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower genital tract trauma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> If possible was IV access gained in labour?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> If possible were an FBC and G+S sent in labour?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong> Was an active third stage advised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong> Was an active third stage performed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong> Was help called for?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> Was a cause identified?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong> Were appropriate uterotonics utilised if atony suspected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong> Was suturing completed quickly if the cause of PPH was suspected to be trauma?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Questions Major PPH (1,000mls-1,999mls)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(May be &gt;1,999mls if controlled)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As above plus;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Was help called?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Was uterine massage utilised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Was second dose of uterotonic administered?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Was the SpR present in the room?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Was IV access gained if not already present?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong> Were FBC, G+S and clotting screens sent (if not recently taken)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> Was the anaesthetist present in the room?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Audit Questions MOH (≥2,000mls) blood loss 150ml/min or 50% of volume in 3 hours (MOH refers to blood loss that is ongoing and uncontrolled)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Was MOH trigger phrase used?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Were laboratories informed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Was the consultant Obstetrician informed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Was 100% high flow oxygen administered?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Were all fluids warmed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Was continuous monitoring commenced?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Were MEOWS calculated every 5 minutes (unless in theatre)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Was the woman catheterised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Was hourly urine output recorded?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Were appropriate uterotonics utilised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Was transfer to theatre performed appropriately?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Was Cell Salvage set up and utilised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Were surgical measures utilised as appropriate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Were extra bloods taken – fibrinogen levels, coagulation studies?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Was the MOH documented appropriately (Scribe/ MOH proforma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Was DATIX completed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Was a fluid balance chart commenced for 24 hours post delivery?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>If fluid output is abnormal was this reviewed by the SpR or consultant urgently?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Was venous thromboprophylaxis Px and administered?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>