

Inpatient Antepartum, Labor and Delivery Guidelines  
**COVID 19 (PUI or CONFIRMED)**  
Management in Labor

- Patient attire/location
  - Patient to wear clean gown and surgical mask (during entire labor process)
  - Restricted to the room at all times
  - Can use telemonitors and tub PRN
  - Isolated room
- Support/caregiver:
  - Recommend protective gear (CONTACT & DROPLET) at all times
  - Restricted to patient's room, not to enter common spaces including cafeteria
  - Uses patient bathroom
  - Single person for entire stay
  - Handwashing often
  - If develops respiratory symptoms (cough, fevers, etc) must leave immediately
- Anesthesia
  - **Strongly** encourage epidural use to avoid intubation in case emergency CS required
  - No nitrous oxide or remifentanil PCA
  - Only nasal cannula use for maternal hypoxia (NOT used for intrauterine resuscitation)
- Additional materials
  - Have forceps and vacuums in the room to avoid in-and-outs (Mity vac & Kiwi)
  - If ultrasound used, needs to be sterilized per protocol
  - Use only disposable stethoscopes
  - Leave some gel packets, gloves, and 2 FSEs, amniohooks, IUPCs in the room
  - Ensure FSE and amnioinfusion cords in the room
  - Collected in clear plastic box (A3740)
- Monitoring
  - Continuous pulse oximetry
  - Strict I/O monitoring
- Safety huddles with team
  - Team check in q2hrs, continuous pulse ox, strict I/Os (may not require in-person physical exam each time)
  - Attention to Maternal Early Warning Criteria for sepsis
  - Includes bedside nurse, MFM attg, MD attg, Charge nurse, OB anesthesia, ICU PRN
  - Review patient's clinical status, early intervention, low threshold for cesarean
- Delivery personnel
  - Recommend MD attg only with Chief resident PRN
  - Bedside nurse
  - Resource nurse
  - Pediatrics team (essential members only)
- Delivery team donning and doffing
  - Delivery team (MDs & nurses) to wear NOVEL RESPIRATORY PPE (including N-95) during 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. Don sterile delivery gloves OVER non-sterile blue gloves
  - New gloves when doffing of masks and eyewear
- Delivery positioning and specifics
  - Recommend pt in stirrups to have control of delivery and avoid sitting on bed to avoid fluid exposure
  - Avoid delivering baby to maternal abdomen. Do not recommend skin-to-skin
- Pediatrics team
  - Limited personnel/essential members only
  - All must be in PPE including provider to receive baby (will wear N-95 due to potential need for intubation)
  - If resuscitation is required, stays in LDR, then transfers baby out
- Post-delivery management
  - Debrief to be completed by MD attg – dispo to stay in LDR vs ICU
  - LDR to be CLOSED until appropriate high cleaning completed (up to 2 hours)

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Antepartum

- Notify OB Anesthesia & ICN if patient develops respiratory symptoms or is admitted as PUI/COVID+
  - MFM attg and ICN attending to discuss where delivery to take place if needed (minimize contamination of multiple spaces and PPE used)
- Patient attire/location
  - Patient to wear clean gown and surgical mask
  - Restricted to room at all times (not to use shared spaces)
  - Isolated room
- Support/caregiver
  - Recommend protective gear (CONTACT & DROPLET) at all times
  - Restricted to patient's room, not to enter common spaces including cafeteria
  - Uses patient bathroom
  - Single person for entire stay
  - Handwashing often
  - If develops respiratory symptoms (cough, fevers, etc) must leave immediately
- Additional materials
  - If ultrasound used, needs to be sterilized, so limit to only necessary use that will directly change patient management
  - Use PDC (see algorithm) for US cleaning
  - Use only disposable stethoscopes
  - Discuss opening OR3 surgical set on case-by-case basis
- Rounding/Direct Patient Care
  - MFM Attending only. Other team members can use tele-health or phone
- Safety huddles with team
  - Team check in q2hrs, continuous pulse ox, strict I/Os (may not require in-person physical exam each time)
  - Attention to Maternal Early Warning Criteria for sepsis
  - Includes bedside nurse, MFM attg, MD attg, Charge nurse, OB anesthesia, ICU PRN
  - Review patient's clinical status, early intervention, low threshold for cesarean
- Equipment
  - Small amount of gloves, gel, FSE, amniohook in room
  - Collected in clear plastic box (Antepartum Med room)
- Transport of patient
  - Complete imaging studies in pt room as much as possible to avoid transport
  - If pt needs to be transported, must wear surgical mask and new gown. Drape clean sheet over patient
  - Minimize transport team. Transporter must wear CONTACT & DROPLET PPE during transport.
  - Don and doff per transport protocols (whenever going into and out of rooms/clinical spaces)
- If antepartum patient goes into labor or is induced, will stay in room, will NOT move to labor room
- Medication considerations:
  - **Betamethasone** per protocol in pt <34 weeks if respiratory symptoms are mild/moderate. For pts with severe symptoms, pts who have already had a course and pts >34 weeks, discuss with MFM
  - **Magnesium sulfate** use should be discussed with MFM depending on the clinical situation and risk of further respiratory compromise

Inpatient Antepartum, Labor and Delivery Guidelines  
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PLANNED/URGENT/EMERGENCY Cesarean Section Overview Guidelines

- Decision making
  - Make early decisions in controlled environment as much as possible (ie. Early diagnosis of arrest of descent, fetal intolerance)
  - Minimize need for emergency delivery
  - Maximize time we have to use approved PRECAUTIONS to minimize exposure to personnel
- Pre-operative anesthesia
  - Patient should be encouraged to have an early epidural as to decrease risk of needing emergency intubation
  - Plan CSE for non-urgent cesarean
- Caregiver
  - Only present in OR if urgent c-section (NOT if emergency c-section)
  - Wears PPE the entire time (CONTACT & DROPLET)
- Communication with unit
  - HUSC will activate **COVID batch page "91119"**
  - Charge nurse will utilize HUSC to advise people to CLEAR THE HALLWAY
  - Only essential team member involvement
  - Observer/Recorder to monitor personnel (donning and doffing of PPE)
  - OR RN Resource communicates when additional personnel needed in OR via PHONE to designated OUT OF OR person (ie if blood is needed, additional supplies)
  - Clear communication with PCA and Anesthesia tech (outside of OR)
- PPE – IF in OR during surgery, needs to be Novel Respiratory (N-95)
  - Outside of patient room (droplet/contact)
  - Outside of ORs in sterile core (droplet/contact)
- Surgical personnel
  - See separate check list and document
- Newborn management
  - OB team to hand off baby to Peds receiving person with appropriate delayed cord clamping
  - Baby will be resuscitated in the room per usual workflow
  - No skin-to-skin
- Donning and Doffing of PPE by surgical personnel
  - Occurs OUTSIDE of OR with separate trash bin (sterile core)
  - Should don NEW PPE prior to transporting patient
- Surgical Timeouts
  - Should be performed by MD OB attg to determine urgency of case
  - Post-op Debrief should include ICU attending, MFM attending (phone)
- Patient recovery:
  - Recovery in her intrapartum LDR isolation room vs ICU per anesthesia and OB team determined after surgery
  - Portable monitor set up in isolation LDR.
- OR clean up
  - HUSC/Charge RN communicates with housekeeping staff of COVID positive OR status
  - High risk clean up (up to two hours)

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**Discharge Follow**

- Notify OB Anesthesia & ICN if patient develops respiratory symptoms or is admitted as PUI/COVID+
  - Add patient to the Complicated postpartum list
- Try to discharge stable PUI patients home with neonate ASAP
  - Add pt's MRN to COVID follow up list
- Patient attire/location
  - Patient to wear clean gown and surgical mask
  - Restricted to patient room (not to enter shared common spaces)
  - Isolated room
- Support/caregiver
  - Recommend protective gear (CONTACT & DROPLET) at all times
  - Restricted to patient's room, not to enter common spaces including cafeteria
  - Uses patient bathroom
  - Single person for entire stay
  - Handwashing often
  - If develops respiratory symptoms (cough, fevers, etc) must leave immediately
- Additional materials
  - Use only disposable stethoscopes
- Safety huddles with team
  - Team check in q2hrs, continuous pulse ox, strict I/Os (may not require in-person physical exam each time)
  - Attention to Maternal Early Warning Criteria for sepsis
  - Includes bedside nurse, MFM attg, MD attg, Charge nurse, OB anesthesia, ICU PRN
- Rounding/Direct Patient Care
  - OB attending only
  - Other team members can use tele-health or phone
- Equipment
  - Small amount of materials in the room
- Transport of patient
  - Complete imaging studies in pt room as much as possible to avoid transport
  - If pt needs to be transported, must wear surgical mask and new gown. Drape new sheet over patient
  - Minimize transport team. Transporter must wear contact & droplet PPE during transport.
  - Don and doff per transport protocols (whenever going into and out of rooms/clinical spaces)
- Breastfeeding considerations
  - Good hand hygiene and wear mask while feeding baby
  - Recommend to express and pump breast milk for infant if separated
  - Follow CDC guidelines for proper breast pumping hygiene ([CDC link](#))
- If patient requires prolonged hospital stay, consider transfer to Parnassus to be managed by COVID medicine services

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**Safety huddle protocols and guidance**

- Complete safety huddles every **2 hours** for ALL PUI/COVID + patients on the unit
  - Assess labor process, fetal status, maternal status
  - Triage, intrapartum, antepartum, postpartum
  - Direct physical exam MAY NOT be indicated each huddle
- Safety huddle personnel
  - Charge Nurse
  - Bedside nurse (1:1)
  - OB/MFM attending
  - OB anesthesia
  - Chief resident
  - ICU attending PRN
- Monitoring for patients
  - Continuous pulse oximetry
  - Strict I/O
  - Attention to respiratory rate
  - LIMIT Physical exams to ONLY if there are vital sign abnormalities or change in clinical status

**Questions to consider for Huddle:**

- Maternal hemodynamic status (see below from the National Partnership for Maternal Safety)
  - Is the patient on oxygen support/tachypnea/decreased urine output/hypotension? → if YES, prompt evaluation of maternal status and reconsider proceeding with labor if remote from delivery
  - Discussion about indications for further testing → repeat CXR, CT, Labs
- Fetal Monitoring Category I? → YES/NO → if NO, low threshold to assess status and consider a controlled Cesarean section
- Assessment of labor progress → if in the active phase (greater than 6 cm) with no cervical change over 2 hours → consider interventions versus Cesarean delivery

***Maternal Early Warning Criteria From the National Partnership for Maternal Safety***

**Maternal Early Warning Criteria:**

- Systolic BP (mm Hg) <90 or >160
- Diastolic BP (mm Hg) >100
- Heart rate (beats per min) <50 or >120
- Respiratory rate (breaths per min) <10 or >30
- Oxygen saturation on room air, at sea level, % <95
- Oliguria, mL/hr for ≥ 2 hrs <35
- Maternal agitation, confusion, or unresponsiveness; Patient with preeclampsia reporting a non-remitting headache or shortness of breath