MATERNITY UNIT

GUIDELINE: Cleaning of the birth pool

SCOPE: All midwives using the birth pool in the maternity unit

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PURPOSE:
- To reduce the risk of infection of cross infection.
- To ensure hygiene for all women using the pool for pain relief in labour, or for the
  birth of their baby.
- To reduce the risks to midwives assisting in the labour and birth of women using the
  birth pool.

DEFINITIONS:
The birthing pool is a pool found in the delivery unit adjacent to room 2, and is available
for women to use for pain relief in labour or for the birth of their baby (see ‘Water for
labour & birth’ guideline regarding conditions for use).

GUIDELINE:
Irrespective of the birth outcome the Lead Maternity Carer or core midwife, if caring for
the woman, is responsible for:
1. Emptying the pool
2. Disposing of the used linen
3. Ensuring the pool is cleaned appropriately (see below)
4. Restocking the pool room

If this task has been delegated to a HCA (healthcare assistant) due to acuity, all body
fluids are to be removed from the pool and room prior to the HCA cleaning the pool. The
following procedure is to be used:

1. Wear eye protection, gloves and a plastic apron whilst cleaning the pool.

2. Wash the surface of the pool with warm soapy water (using a solution of liquid
detergent and NOT Ajax or any other corrosive powder) using the designated
mop, ensuring that the plug hole is also cleaned thoroughly.

3. Rinse off the soapy water and clean the shower head.

4. Wipe the entire surface of the pool with 10% Presept (x5 5.0g tablets in 6 litres of
water).
5. Rinse with warm water after 5 minutes.

6. Leave the pool to dry naturally if possible. Rinse again with warm water prior to the next woman using the pool and run the shower head for a few moments and discard this water.

7. Rinse mop heads in cold water, then send to the laundry for cleaning in a blue bag with a yellow plastic inner liner labelled ‘mop heads maternity unit’ - separate to other laundry. Replace with a clean mop head.

8. The water thermometer and mirror should be washed with warm soapy water and wiped with a disinfectant (70% alcohol) wipe.

9. The pool room sieve and bucket should be cleaned with hot soapy water and then decontaminated in the sanitizer in the sluice room in delivery unit.

IT IS VITAL THAT THE POOL IS LEFT CLEAN AND READY FOR USE BY THE NEXT PERSON, AND THAT THIS IS CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE BIRTH.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
Disinfectant and Antiseptic Organizational Guideline
Water for labour and birth

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Authorised by (HOD Obstetrics)

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Authorised by (Clinical Care Manager Woman, Child & Youth)

Date of Approval: ____/____/____

Next Review Date: ____/____/____