MATERNNITY UNIT

GUIDELINE: EMERGENCY- OBSTETRIC AND NEONATAL

SCOPE: All midwives and nurses working in the maternity unit

AUTHOR: Midwifery Educator & Quality Coordinator

PURPOSE: To ensure rapid and effective action and specialist input in an emergency situation

DEFINITIONS: Emergency = A situation requiring urgent specialist input and management either obstetric or neonatal

GUIDELINE
In the event of an obstetric/neonatal emergency in maternity, dial 777 and ask switchboard to page the crash team AND the on call obstetrician and/or paediatrician and/or anaesthetist urgently, clearly stating the location of the emergency including room number. This call can be made from the phone in the birthing/PN rooms if that is where the emergency is located. Switchboard will repeat back what you have said for confirmation before ending your call and then activating the crash team's pagers and calling the required specialists i.e. obstetrician. The resuscitation team will include the Duty Nurse Manager. It is better to have too many people around quickly than too few too late.

Alternatively, if you just want the obstetrician or paediatrician (not the crash team), then contact the on call specialist using the ward cell phone stating the type of emergency and the location, using the SBARR tool as a means of communication, take note of the time of the call and response.

The shift coordinator must know each duty who is the specialist obstetrician and paediatrician on call and should carry the phone with her whilst on duty, and know how to use it.

In some situations it may be that you require the paediatrician, obstetrician and anaesthetist at the emergency - e.g. cord prolapse, severe shoulder dystocia, severe APH with fetal distress, uterine rupture. Make this clear when making the 777 call to switchboard.

The obstetrician or anaesthetist is responsible for alerting the on call theatre team in emergency situations, clearly stating the reason and who is required. On occasions a midwife may be asked to do this, therefore telephone 777 stating the on call theatre team and anaesthetist are required and why i.e. category 1 crash LSCS.
The person making the phone call is responsible for ensuring that someone is able to open the locked door at NNU entrance and wedging it open so the crash team can enter without delay.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
Neonatal resuscitation
Referral of inpatient neonates to paediatricians

Approved by:

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HOD Obstetrics

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Clinical Care Manager

Date of Approval: ___/____/____

Next Review Date: ____/___/____