MATERNITY UNIT
GUIDELINE:

TRANSFER TO POSTNATAL WARD

SCOPE:
All midwives and nurses working in the maternity unit

AUTHOR:
Midwifery Educator

PURPOSE:
To ensure a quality standard is met for all postnatal admissions

DEFINITIONS:
The postnatal period is the time following the birth of the baby prior to discharge from the maternity unit.

GUIDELINE

1. The LMC will provide a verbal handover of care to an allocated core midwife or nurse and record this handover in the woman’s Maternity Clinical Information records as a transfer of clinical responsibility.

2. The woman is allocated a room and identified on the whiteboard.

3. The woman is introduced to the staff member who will manage her ongoing care in consultation with the LMC.

4. Check woman has ID bracelet in situ (for checking any medications administered).

5. Ensure that the woman is comfortable and orientated to ward 1, ensuite facilities, call bell and refreshments available.

6. Check maternal uterine fundus is well contracted and central and lochia is not excessive and sanitary pad is in place. Document findings in the clinical records

7. Check colour, warmth, and respirations of the baby. Check that 2 ID bracelets are in situ and that the cord clamp is secured and not oozing.

8. Assist with baby care and breastfeeding as necessary. Document breastfeeding assistance as per the personalized care plan.

9. Ensure that the woman has sanitary pads, towels, flannels and nappies.
10. Perform TPR and BP as clinically indicated.

11. Any other requirements should be written in the care plan by the LMC and discussed with Maternity Unit staff.

12. If staff have any concerns about the mother or infant they should contact the LMC, obstetrician or paediatrician, whichever is most appropriate at the time.

13. If the woman is admitted from an outside hospital consult MRSA policy regarding screening.

14. If mother wishes to go home within 12 hours of the birth, contact her LMC and complete the early discharge checklist - see early discharge guideline.

It is TDH policy that all women are screened for partner abuse at every admission.

Suggested questions for routine screening are:

“You may already have been asked by your LMC but because pregnancy is a time when family violence can start or escalate we are required to ask all women who come through the maternity unit about this so that we can help to get the right support”.

• “Are you (and your children) in any danger at home”; AND/ OR
• “Is there anyone who scares or hurts you (or your children?”); AND/ OR
• “Do you ever fear for your safety (or the safety of your children?”); AND/ OR
• “Are you afraid to go home?” AND/ OR
• “Is there anyone who makes you feel no good or worthless?” AND / OR
• “Is there anyone who makes you have sex when you don’t want to? “

Maternity Unit Policy/Guidelines

• Early Postnatal Discharge from Maternity and Neonatal Unit

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