

# Obstetrical Triage

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## **Preamble**

In certain circumstances, pregnant patients benefit from direct transport to a hospital with obstetric services. Currently in Winnipeg the only hospitals with obstetric services are Women's Hospital at the Health Sciences Center (HSC) and St. Boniface General Hospital (SBGH). This protocol only applies when the closest hospital is a hospital within the limits of the City of Winnipeg.

## **Requirements**

1. Fully licensed Technician-Paramedic
2. Certification in obstetrical triage protocol by the medical director

## **Indications**

1. Obstetrical patient
2. The closest hospital is a hospital within the limits of the City of Winnipeg

## **Contraindications**

1. The closest hospital is not within the limits of the City of Winnipeg

## **Procedure**

### **Transport to the Nearest Hospital if:**

1. Unable to maintain the airway or achieve adequate ventilation with pre-hospital interventions
2. Class 3 or 4 hemorrhage<sup>1</sup> with PV bleeding and no IV access
3. Class 3 hemorrhage (30-40% blood loss):  
-marked tachycardia

- tachypnea
- decreased pulse pressure
- decreased systolic pressure
- significant change in mental status

4. Class 4 hemorrhage

- life-threatening exsanguinations
- marked tachycardia
- significantly decreased systolic blood pressure
- narrow pulse pressure
- unobtainable diastolic pressure
- depressed mental status

5. Death of patient appears imminent

**Transport to Women's Hospital (HSC) or SBGH Labour and Delivery if:**

1. Any gestational age and **imminent delivery**
2. Greater than 20 weeks and non-traumatic PV bleeding

**Transport to HSC/SBGH/Children's Emergency (closest or where patient will deliver, Children's if <16)**

**(If destination hospital closed, divert to the nearest hospital.)**

1. Greater than or equal to 20 weeks:
  - shock not caused by PV bleeding or trauma
  - medical complaint (e.g. asthma, pneumonia, eclampsia-pre-eclampsia, abdominal pain with no bleeding or signs of labour)
2. Less than 20 weeks:
  - PV bleeding
  - shock of any cause other than trauma
  - miscarriage/spontaneous abortion
3. Trauma but does not meet trauma triage

**Transport to HSC/Children's Emergency if:**

1. Any gestational age and meets trauma triage criteria (see trauma triage guideline)

**If the ambulance's destination site is closed, divert to another labour/delivery site**

### **Documentation Requirements**

The following information must be documented on the patient care report form:

1. Patient's presenting signs and symptoms, including vital signs, level of consciousness and oxygen saturation.
2. Indications for protocol use.
3. Repeat assessment, including vital signs, level of consciousness and oxygen saturation, as indicated.
4. Changes from baseline, if any, that occur during treatment or transport.
5. Signature and license number of EMS personnel performing any transfer of function skills.

### **Certification Requirements**

1. Attend in-depth classes and lectures on obstetrical emergencies, including anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology of pregnancy.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate assessment and management of an obstetrical patient.
3. Pass a written examination.
4. Certification is by the Medical Director.

### **Recertification Requirements**

1. Review class and recertification is done every 12 months.
2. A record will be kept to document all cases where this protocol is used.

### **Decertification**

1. Decertification is at the discretion of the Medical Director or the Provincial Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.

### **Quality Assurance Requirements**

1. Appropriate quality assurance policies must be in place. The Medical Director or designate must review all instances where this protocol is used. As a minimum, the following must be assessed:
  - i) appropriateness of implementation
  - ii) adherence to protocol
  - iii) any deviation from the protocol
  - iv) corrective measures taken, if indicated
2. Yearly statistics for protocol use compiled and forwarded to Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.