



LABOR AND DELIVERY - COMPLICATIONS



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

Supportive Care

1. [Trauma Supportive Care Protocol](#). Notify closest OB capable hospital early and prepare for transport to an OB [capable hospital](#).

Prolapsed Cord

1. Place mother in a knee-chest position or supine position with pillows under the buttocks.
2. Do not attempt to push cord back. Wrap cord in warm sterile saline soaked dressing.
3. With a gloved hand, palpate the cord for a pulse.
4. If pulse is absent in umbilical cord, and positioning of mother does not restore pulse, insert a gloved hand into the vagina and lift the fetal head, or other presenting part, off of the umbilical cord while gently pushing the fetus into the uterus. With the other hand, press on the lower abdomen in an upward or cephalic direction. Push the fetus back only far enough to regain a pulse in the umbilical cord.
5. Transport immediately, while maintaining fetal position to maintain umbilical pulse.

Breech Birth

Do not pull on the newborn. Allow the delivery to proceed normally, supporting the newborn with the palm of your hand and arm, and allowing the head to deliver.

If the head is not delivered within 3 minutes, place gloved hand in the vagina with your palm towards the newborn's face. Form a "V" with your index and middle finger on either side of the newborn's nose and push the vaginal wall away from the newborn's face to create airspace for the newborn until delivery of the head. Suction may be provided PRN.

Transport immediately, while maintaining the airspace for the newborn.



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Approved by:


Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



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Limb Presentation

Place mother in either the knee-chest position or supine position with pillows under the buttocks.

2. Transport immediately.

Shoulder Dystocia

Determine presence of shoulder dystocia as follows: head will deliver normally and then it will retract back into the perineum because the shoulders are trapped between the symphysis pubis and the sacrum (this is called "turtle sign").

If this occurs, **do not pull on head.**

Have mother drop her buttocks off the end of the bed and flex her thighs upward to facilitate delivery.

Apply firm pressure with an open hand immediately above the symphysis pubis.

If delivery does not occur, transport immediately.

ALS Level 1

None

ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)

None



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