

# COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR HOME BIRTH SETTING

The following list is the minimum required equipment and supplies for safety at a home birth. Midwives may choose to carry further equipment and supplies depending on their location and clients served. All equipment and supplies must be appropriately cleaned, disinfected or sterilised and functional to ensure safety. It is understood that midwives will use their best clinical judgement in prioritizing their actions in the management of emergency situations. Some emergency procedures, such as umbilical vein cannulation, will not be able to be carried out without additional qualified attendants available to assist.

### EQUIPMENT

- Fetoscope<sup>1</sup>
- Doppler fetoscope
- Stethoscope
- Infant or neonatal stethoscope
- Sphygmomanometer with appropriate sized cuff
- Thermometer
- Two haemostats
- Portable suction equipment compatible with intubation
- Newborn intubation equipment
- One pair of blunt-ended scissors
- One pair of scissors for episiotomy
- Newborn resuscitation bag and mask including: pressure gauge, PEEP<sup>2</sup> valve
- Pulse oximeter
- CO<sub>2</sub> detector
- Newborn laryngeal mask airway
- Equipment for administration of epinephrine and/or fluids for volume expansion via the umbilical vein (UV)<sup>3</sup>
- Suturing instruments
- Newborn scale

### MEDICATIONS

- Uterotonic drugs<sup>4</sup>
- Local anaesthetic
- Epinephrine (adult and newborn doses)
- Oxygen (sufficient for transport)
- Eye prophylaxis

<sup>1</sup> Non-electronic instrument for fetal heart assessment

<sup>2</sup> Positive end expiratory pressure valve

<sup>3</sup> Minimally syringes (for epinephrine 1/10,000 .1ml/kg followed by normal saline flush), 3-way stop cock or extension & UV cannula or #5 sterile feeding tube. Midwives may carry other supplies and equipment that support UV cannulation.

<sup>4</sup> See *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Ordering, and Administering Drugs*

- Vitamin K
- IV fluids

### SUPPLIES

- Cord clamps or ties
- Antiseptic solution
- Sterile gloves
- Non-sterile gloves
- Sterile lubricant
- Syringes
- Needles (appropriate sizes)
- Suture material
- Urinary catheter
- Urinalysis supplies
- Cord blood tubes
- Sharps container
- IV supplies
- Adult oxygen masks
- Oral airways

*A midwife must carry an emergency birth kit whenever in attendance at a labour, regardless of stage of labour or planned place of birth. The kit must include:*

- 2 haemostats
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 cord clamp
- gauze, gloves
- oxytocin
- syringe with needle
- suction

### Required Equipment & Supplies for Home Birth Setting

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