

**SECTION: OB-03**

**PROTOCOL TITLE: POST PARTUM BLEEDING**

**REVISED: November 1, 2017**

**GENERAL COMMENTS:** This is a protocol for control of potentially life-threatening bleeding after delivery of the fetus(s). This is generally defined as *estimated* post-partum blood loss in excess of 350-500 cc. This supplements, not replaces, other general protocols for treatment.

**BLS SPECIFIC CARE: See General OB Care Protocol OB-1**

- **Maternal post-partum care:**
  - o Allow baby to suckle at mother's breast if possible.
  - o Expect blood loss of up to 350-500 ml with normal deliveries
- **Fundal Massage:** If the uterus has not contracted following delivery, provide firm but gentle uterine massage
  - o Place one hand directly above pubis symphysis and the other at the fundus (top) of the uterus (Anterior /Posterior Technique
  - o Cup the uterus between the two hands and massage until complete contraction occurs.
  - o Complete contraction has occurred when the uterus has assumed a woody hardness and has compressed to the size of a grapefruit
- If hypotensive, See Adult Hypotension and Shock protocol M-3

**AEMT/O.M. Specific Care: See General OB Care Protocol OB-1**

**ALS SPECIFIC CARE:**

- Assess and identify causes of complaints, treat as needed
- Maintain patent airway as necessary to include endotracheal intubation when appropriate
- Administer Utero-tonics in addition to/simultaneously with other interventions.
  - o **Oxytocin (Pitocin)**
    - IV/IO: Mix 10 U in 250 ml of NS administered at a rate to control uterine contractions. Typically infused 10u/250 ml over 5 to 10 minutes;
    - Repeat if needed up to 20 units.
    - IM (if IV/IO is unavailable) 10 U IM.
  - o **Other Uterotonics:** When responding to a obstetric or other health care center, EMS providers may permit the licensed providers (i.e. Physicians, Nurse Midwives, Licensed Midwives, Registered Nurses) to administer a uterotonic such as *Misoprostol (Cytotec, Misodel)* in addition to/ or in place of Pitocin if needed.

Protocol  
OB-03

POST PARTUM BLEEDING

**PHYSICIAN PEARLS:**

- Mothers should get skin to skin contact and nursing to promote uterine contraction if feasible.
- If 350-500 cc (or more) blood loss, Act ASAP
  - Intervene immediately, within 5 minutes of hemorrhage
  - Two handed fundal massage is preferred, but one handed methods are permissible.

**Fundal Massage**

