

Equipment, Medications and Supplies for Home and Community Labour and Birth

The following list is the minimum recommended equipment, medications and supplies for safely providing labour and birth care in the home and other community settings.

Additional equipment and supplies may be beneficial depending on location and specialty needs. All equipment and supplies should be in working order, appropriately cleaned, disinfected or sterilized and stored appropriately to ensure full function and safety. Ensure that the birth kit is maintained appropriately. The kit should be clean, organized and stocked. All sterile materials should be stored appropriately. Drugs must be in date and stored at the recommended temperature.

When providing home and community **labour** care have the equipment, medications, and supplies to:

- Assess and monitor the health of the fetus
- Assess and monitor the health of the labouring woman/person
- Conduct a precipitous birth and/or unplanned home or community birth
- Perform initial management of obstetrical emergencies, stabilize and transport as appropriate
- Perform initial management of neonatal resuscitation, stabilize and transport as appropriate
- Comply with IPAC and materials management guidance

When providing home and community **birth** care have the equipment, medications, and supplies to:

- Assess and monitor the health of the fetus
- Assess and monitor the health of the labouring woman/person
- Conduct a planned birth
- Inspect and repair the woman/person's perineum
- Assess and monitor the health of the newborn
- Manage obstetrical emergencies, stabilize and transport as appropriate
- Initiate neonatal resuscitation, stabilize and transport as appropriate
- Comply with IPAC and materials management guidance

Labour

Equipment, medications and supplies to provide care during labour at home or other community setting:

1. Equipment

- Fetoscope
- Fetal doppler waterproof
- Stethoscope adult
- Sphygmomanometer adult with appropriately sized cuffs
- Thermometer electronic

2. Supplies

- Alcohol swabs
- Gauze sterile
- Intravenous for GBS chemoprophylaxis (on an as needed basis)
- Lubricant sterile
- Measuring tape
- Mesh underwear
- Syringes and needles
- Ultrasound or equivalent gel
- Underpads
- Urinalysis test strips

3. Infection Prevention and Control

- Hand sanitizer
- Gloves non-sterile
- Gloves sterile

4. Medications

- Antibiotics for GBS prophylaxis (on an as needed basis)
- Dimenhydrinate
- Epinephrine (for anaphylaxis response if providing GBS chemoprophylaxis)
- Intravenous fluids for GBS prophylaxis (on an as needed basis)
- Sterile water for sterile water injection

5. Emergency Birth Kit

Carry an emergency birth kit whenever in attendance at a labour in the home or community setting, regardless of the stage of labour or planned place of birth.

- Alcohol swabs
- Bulb suction
- Cord clamp
- Gloves sterile
- Gloves non-sterile
- Hemostats (Kelly clamps or similar x2)
- I-gel or laryngeal mask airway size 1
- Lap sponges sterile
- Lubricant packages sterile
- Newborn resuscitation bag and mask
- Oxytocin
- Plastic bag for placenta
- Scissors sterile
- Syringe with needle
- Thermal wrap/towel/blanket to dry infant

Birth

Equipment, medications and supplies to support birth at home or other community setting:

1. Equipment

- Fetoscope
- Fetal doppler with waterproof probe
- Light source portable
- Newborn scale
- Pulse oximeter
- Sphygmomanometer adult (with appropriately sized cuffs)
- Stethoscope adult
- Stethoscope infant or neonatal
- Suction portable
- Thermometer

2. Instruments

- Hemostats (2)
- Instruments for UV cannulation (see NRP list)
- Needle driver (1)
- Pick up with teeth (1)
- Pick up without teeth (1)
- Laryngoscope (1)
- Ring forceps (2)
- Scissors blunt-ended (1)
- Scissors for episiotomy (1)
- Scissors straight mayo (1)
- Vaginal retractor or speculum (1)

3. Medications

- Antibiotics for GBS chemoprophylaxis (on an as needed basis)
- Epinephrine (adult and newborn)
 - Epinephrine 1mg/ml injectable
 - Epinephrine 20g 1mg/10ml syringe
- Erythromycin eye ointment
- Intravenous fluids (normal saline and lactated ringers)
- Local anesthetic (1% lidocaine without epinephrine)
- Normal saline 10ml prefilled syringes
- Oxygen (2 D tanks)
- Postpartum pain management (NSAIDs and acetaminophen)
- Sterile water (for intradermal sterile water injection)
- Uterotonic drugs
- Vitamin K injectable

4. Materials Management

- Biohazard labels
- Container for placenta storage and transport
- Medication labels
- Sharps container
- Spare batteries (doppler, scale, laryngoscope, thermometer)

5. Supplies

- Amniotic membrane perforator
- Amniotic fluid detector
- Antiseptic solution
- Bladder instillation supplies
- Catheterization kit
- Intravenous supplies
- Lubricant sterile
- Measuring tape disposable
- Mesh underwear
- Needles (appropriate sizes)
- Oxygen mask and tubing adult
- Oral airways adult
- Perineal bottle
- Pocket mask adult
- Surgical drape sterile
- Suture material (perineal repair)
- Syringes (1ml, 3ml, 5ml, 10ml, 20ml, 60 ml)
- Underpads
- Urinalysis test strips
- Urinary catheters (straight and foley)
- Ultrasound gel or equivalent
- Venipuncture supplies

6. Infection Prevention and Control

- Disinfectant wipes
- Gloves sterile
- Gloves non-sterile
- Gloves shoulder length
- Gown
- Hand sanitizer

7. Neonatal Resuscitation Supplies

- Thermal mattress
- Suction connector tubing
- Suction catheters 10F or 12F
- Feeding tubes 5F, 8F
- Tracheal aspirator
- Slim handle laryngoscope
- Laryngoscope straight blades No.1 (term)
- Extra bulbs and batteries for laryngoscope, if reusable
- Uncuffed endotracheal tubes (3.0, 3.5-mm internal diameter)
- Stylet 6F
- CO2 detector
- Scissors non-sterile
- Tape
- Securing device for endotracheal tube (Neobar – newborn)
- I-gel supraglottic airway size 1 (or laryngeal mask airway size 1)
- Face masks: size 0 and 1 (newborn and premature)
- Tank flow regulator for oxygen
- Key to open and close oxygen tank
- Oxygen tubing
- Pulse oximeter sensor
- Pulse oximeter sensor cover
- 2% chlorhexidine swab sticks
- Sterile drape
- Umbilical tie
- Scalpel
- 2 x 2 gauzes
- Umbilical catheters, single lumen 3.5F, 5F
- Three-way stopcocks (or mini-extension set with med port)
- Mosquito forceps or curved forceps sterile
- 3-0 silk suture
- Needle driver sterile
- Scissors sterile
- Syringes (1, 5, 10, 20, 30, and 60 mL)
- Umbilical vessel securing device or tape (Neobar an option)
- Umbilical clamp
- Rapid fill connector
- Timer

References

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2. Royal Cornwall Hospitals, NHS Trust. Community Midwife Equipment List Clinical Guideline V3. December 2022. [Community Midwife Equipment List Clinical Guideline V3.0 \(cornwall.nhs.uk\)](https://www.cornwall.nhs.uk)
3. University of British Columbia, Continuing Professional Development. Midwifery Best Practices in Materials Management. [Midwifery Best Practices in Materials Management | Course | UBC CPD](#)
4. University of British Columbia, Continuing Professional Development. Midwifery Emergency Skills Program (MESP). [Midwifery Emergency Skills Program \(MESP\) | Course | UBC CPD](#)
5. BCCNM Required Equipment and supplies for home birth. 2021. [Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses: Standards, Limits, Conditions \(bccnm.ca\)](https://www.bccnm.ca)

Resources

6. Home Birth Supplies Program. Perinatal Services British Columbia. [Home Birth Supplies Program | perinatalservicesbc.ca](https://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca)
7. [Group B Streptococcus Screening and Prophylaxis | psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
8. Home Birth | [psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
9. Postpartum Hemorrhage Prevention and Management | [psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
10. Neonatal Resuscitation Practice Resource for Healthcare Providers. [NRP_Practice_Resource1 | psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
11. [Equipment Check | psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
12. [NRP Code Medication Card | psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
13. [Inserting an Emergency Umbilical Vein Catheter using a small-bore extension set with med port | psbchealthhub.ca](https://www.psbchealthhub.ca)
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15. Neonatal Resuscitation Supplies and Equipment for Planned Home and Community Birth
Perinatal Services BC
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