



South Eastman Health/Santé Sud-Est Inc.

No: MC-D002	
Approved By: Ken Wersch Vice President Operations & Programs	Source: Regional Client Care Manual Category: Maternal Child
New/Replaces: Date Approved: October 12, 2000 Reviewed: Revised:	Subject: Second Attendants at Births in Hospital

POLICY:

1. The second attendant at a birth in hospital must be an employee of the hospital and/or South Eastman Health/Santé Sud Est Inc.
2. The second attendant must be a registered midwife, registered nurse or a physician.
3. The second attendant must be NRP (Neonatal Resuscitation Provider) and CPR certified.
4. The second attendant is to be present for the second stage, birth and immediate post partum period.
5. Knowledge of the instruments, supplies, drugs and herbs used by the primary care provider is required.
6. The second attendant must have a knowledge and understanding of Midwifery in Manitoba and the midwifery practice protocols.
7. The role of the second attendant is to assist with the birth of an infant as required by the midwife or physician, within their scope of practice.
8. Facilities will have midwifery and physician schedules in obstetrics available on all obstetrical units.
9. An oral consultation to nursing may be made by the midwife if the midwife leaves the unit for a break. If the midwife leaves the hospital a written consult to nursing must be made by writing orders on the Physician/Midwife Order sheet and by writing a history on the Progress Notes. If the midwife consults a physician, the RN will assist the physician as required.

Role of the Second Attendant

1. Preparation
 - a. Set up equipment and linen required for delivery prior to the end of the first stage of labour if possible.
 - b. Ensure that infant resuscitation supplies are readily available and functioning. These include suction (#10 French and no greater than 100 mm Hg suction), laryngoscope, endotracheal tubes with introducer, neonatal ambu bag, oxygen, and emergency medications.

2. Second, Third and Fourth Stages of Labour
 - a. Assess fetal heart rate q5min with a fetascope/doptone or continuously with an electronic fetal heart monitor as indicated. The midwife may prefer to check the fetal heart instead of this being the role of the second attendant.
 - b. Assist client with positioning during second stage. Provide comfort measures and encouragement to clients.
 - c. Administer Syntocinon if ordered by midwife or physician. Assess Apgar scores.
 - d. Complete delivery record.
 - e. Assess neonatal respiration and circulation, initiating and assisting with resuscitation if required.
Dry infant. Promote family-infant bonding. Encourage and assist the initiation of breastfeeding. Give Vit K IM and Erythromycin ointment in each conjunctival sac as ordered by primary care provider. Place identaband on infant's ankle and mother's wrist.
 - f. Assess maternal fundal height, blood pressure and heart rate following birth. Massage fundus if required. Establish an intravenous if required and administer medications and herbs as directed.
 - g. Midwives may prefer to give routine neonatal care to their clients instead of this being the role of the second attendant.
 - h. Helps clean up after birth.

References

Standards for use of second attendant. College of Midwives of Manitoba, October 1999

About the Roles of Midwives and RNs MARN, May 2000.