

INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE GUIDELINE

B-00-07-10031 – Cord Clamp Removal

Umbilical Cord Clamp (Newborn): Removal, procedure

Related Documents and Resources:

1. [B-00-12-10046](#) - Umbilical Artery Catheter (UAC) Insertion; procedure

Need to Know:

At birth the newborn umbilical cord is clamped and cut. Infant umbilical cord stumps fall off approximately 5 to 15 days after birth. Improved umbilical cord care practices, rooming-in and encouragement of frequent skin to skin practices have significantly contributed to preventing infection in the early neonatal period and led to earlier separation of the cord stump. Health care professionals and parents/caregivers are encouraged to leave the cord clamp in place until the cord stump dries and falls off.

PRACTICE GUIDELINE

- Health care professionals will apply the umbilical cord clamp at delivery and leave a length of cord below the clamp to allow for shrinkage of the cord as it dries.
- Health care professionals will **NOT** remove umbilical cord clamps prior to discharge.
- Health care professionals will provide mothers/caregivers with education regarding how to care for the umbilical cord stump and the normal process of drying and separation.
- Health care professionals will reassure mothers/caregivers the umbilical cord clamp will fall off with the cord stump and will not cause discomfort or harm to the their infant.

Exceptions:

- Cord clamps should only be removed if there is a clinical indication. Cord clamps are removed using a single use, disposable cord clamp cutter only.

Tools:



Clamp Umbilical Disposable Plastic Non Sterile
Peoplesoft#00001155



Universal Cord Clamp Clipper Latex free Single
Use, Disposable
Peoplesoft#00001157

Definitions:

Umbilical Cord: The umbilical cord connects the baby and placenta *in utero*. Following birth the umbilical cord is clamped and cut.

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Umbilical Cord Clamp: Plastic umbilical cord clamps are designed to provide safe and convenient handling. The clamps lock to prevent accidental opening after clamping.

Umbilical Cord Clamp Cutter: Umbilical cord clamp cutters are designed to safely remove umbilical cord clamps. These cutters are intended for single use only and are not reprocessed. Cord clamps are disposed of in sharps containers following removal.

References:

Adapted from Fraser Health Clinical Protocol: Newborn Umbilical Cord Clamp Removal (Dec 2009)

1. Baby's Best Chance (second revision sixth edition). (2010). From the website: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2010/bbc>.
2. BC Reproductive Care Program. (2001). Newborn Guideline 10: Care of the Umbilical Cord. From the website: <http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/sites/bcrp/files/Guidelines/Newborn/MasterNB10CordCareFebruary.pdf>
3. Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. (April 2011). Rapid Response Report: Umbilical Cord Clamp Removal: A Review of the Clinical Benefits and Harms. From the website: http://cadth.ca/media/pdf/htis/april-2011/L0255_Umbilical_Cord_Clamp_Removal_final.pdf
4. Fraser Health. (Dec 2009). Clinical Protocol: Newborn Umbilical Cord Clamp Removal.
5. Perinatal Services BC. (April 2010). Perinatal Forms Guideline 10: A guide for completion of the BC Newborn Care Path (PSBC 1593). From the Website: http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/sites/bcrp/files/Guidelines/PerinatalForms/PF_CompletionGuideline10_1593.pdf
6. Zupan J, Graner P, Omari AAS. (2004). Topical umbilical cord care at birth. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

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