

PROCEDURE FOR: Fetal Scalp Blood Sampling: Assistance with

PURPOSE: To outline nursing responsibilities in obtaining a fetal blood sample for pH and/or blood gas analysis.

SUPPORTIVE

DATA: Fetal scalp blood sampling may be used as an adjunct to FHR monitoring.

EQUIPMENT: Fetal blood sampling kit
Light source
Silicone gel
Sterile gloves
Bed pan or hip cushion

DOCUMENTATION: Document procedure, patient response, results and actions on L&D flowsheet and FHR tracing.

PROCEDURE:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u>
1. Notify Respiratory Therapy lab of plan for fetal scalp sampling.	1. The Respiratory Therapy lab is responsible for running the specimen and obtaining the results.
2. Assist patient into lithotomy or left lateral position.	2. Elevate patient's hips if she is in lithotomy position to improve visualization.
3. Open the fetal scalp blood sampling kit using aseptic technique.	
4. Assist physician with light source and procedure.	
5. Mark fetal monitor strip as scalp incision is being made.	5. Sample should not be obtained during a contraction.
6. Continue to monitor fetal heart rate tones while physician is obtaining sample.	6. Collection of one sample should not exceed 60 seconds since the blood will begin to clot.
7. Seal one end of the filled capillary tube and transfer to Respiratory Therapy lab.	

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

CREDENTIALS: RN, MD

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/79

REVISION DATE(S): 1/94, 3/97, 6/02

REVIEWED DATE(S): 9/08