

PROCEDURE FOR: Baptism

- POLICY:
1. All infants born to parents of Christian faith will be baptized according to the wishes of the parents. Every effort will be made to determine the parents' wishes for baptism prior to delivery of any infant with a potential for death shortly after birth and any critically ill infant transported to John Dempsey Hospital.
  2. In an emergency, if a member of the clergy is not available, the baptism will be performed by a member of the hospital staff.
  3. If the wishes of the parents are unknown, baptism will NOT be performed.
  4. The Certificate of Baptism must be completed on all baptisms whether performed by a hospital chaplain, hospital personnel, outside clergy, or a lay person.

- EQUIPMENT:
1. Sterile water
  2. Baptismal shell

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Place sterile water in Baptismal shell.</li><li>2. Moisten thumb in sterile water.</li><li>3. Using thumb, draw sign of the Cross on forehead saying, "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, Son, and The Holy Spirit, Amen".</li><li>4. Fill out baptism form and make 3 copies.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. One copy goes into the baby's medical record.</li><li>b. One copy gets mailed to the Chaplain's Office (MC1700).</li><li>c. Give one copy to the family.</li></ol></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Use given name if known. If it is not known whether the infant is alive or dead at the time of baptism, a conditional Baptism may be performed and one would state, "If you are alive, I baptize....." While a deceased person cannot be baptized, the offer of pastoral support may be helpful to the family.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>c. The Chaplain's Office will mail a formal baptismal certificate directly to the family.</li></ol></li></ol> |
|---|--|

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/80

REVISION DATE: 2/87, 11/91, 3/95, 6/99, 11/02

REVIEWED DATES: 12/08