

POLICY

Registered midwives (RMs) work together with BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the staff at BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre (BCWH) toward the common goal of providing the safest care possible to women choosing home birth. Although most do not, some mothers and/or newborns require emergency transport by ambulance to BCWH during or after home birth.

Mothers and/or newborns requiring emergency transport to BCWH from home are admitted together to BCWH through the Urgent Care Centre (UCC). The mother and/or newborn receive(s) immediate care from the attending midwife, UCC nurses, appropriate physicians, the Code Pink team, the Code Blue team and/or NICU team as indicated. Admission may occur from the UCC to Labour & Delivery, Birthing Suites, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) or any of the postpartum units.

Applicability: This policy applies to mothers during labour, birth and the immediate postpartum period, and to newborns up to 24 hours of age.

PROCEDURE

When emergency transport is required, a safe and smooth transport from home to hospital is the goal. In an emergency situation, the communication between health care providers and preparation at BCWH are key factors in providing the mother and/or newborn with timely and appropriate access to care.

1.1 Regular Notification

Registered Midwives attending a home birth in progress:

- Notify the Urgent Care Centre Triage Nurse of a home birth in progress (604-875-3070).
- Notify the Urgent Care Centre Triage Nurse once home birth successfully completed.

1.2 Emergency Notification

When an emergency at home requires transport to BCWH, the Registered Midwife:

- Calls 911: Request ambulance and Infant Transport Team and/or Advanced Life Support (when appropriate). Request 2nd ambulance if both mother and newborn require transport.
- Calls BCWH Urgent Care Centre (UCC): 604-875-3070
- Notifies UCC Triage Nurse of emergency in progress, OTAS score, situation/urgency and estimated time of arrival.
- Requests appropriate resources and personnel are ready upon arrival - obstetrician, anesthesiologist, pediatrician, NICU team, medication, equipment, etc.
- Prepares woman and/or newborn for transport.
- Upon EMS arrival at the home, provides report to EMS using SBAR. It is expected that midwife remain MRP during transport in most cases.
- Accompanies woman or newborn in ambulance with required supplies and continues to provide care
- On arrival at BCWH gives verbal report and transfers care to physician (when appropriate).

When an emergency at home requires transport to BCWH the UCC Triage Nurse:

- Receives call from the RM.
- Notifies Birthing Suites or Labour & Delivery Charge of situation as indicated.
- Arranges appropriate resources (room, equipment) and personnel (RNs, obstetrician, anesthesiologist, pediatrician, NICU team) in preparation of patient arrival.
- Prepares/obtains pre-admission paperwork, if available.
- Upon arrival, calls Code Pink, Code Blue or Code Neonatal Resuscitation as indicated.

DOCUMENTATION

Use the appropriate documents to record information:

Care Provider	Document	Instructions
Registered Midwife	Appendix A WW.02.03A Emergency Transport Registered Midwife Record	Complete and submit during or within 12 hours of an emergency transport of mother/newborn from home.
Charge Nurse	Appendix B WW.02.03B Home Birth in Progress & Emergency Transport Nurse Record	Start completing record when notified of a home birth in progress. Complete record during an emergency transport of mother/newborn from home, and submit within 12 hours.

Fax all completed documents to BCWH Department of Midwifery at 604-875-3261

REFERENCES

Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of MacDowall – Aislabie, Tessah Rose (2000, June). BC Coroner's Service.

Implementing Midwifery Services in British Columbia – A Manual for Hospitals and Health Regions (2006, March). Midwives Association of BC (MABC).

Janssen P, Lee SK (2000). Home Birth Demonstration Project. Final Report to the Health Transition Fund, Appendix C, Victoria: British Columbia Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors; Project no BC404.

Janssen P, Lee SK, Ryan EM, Etches DJ, Farquharson DF, Peacock LD, Klein MC. (2002, February 5). [Outcomes of planned home births](#) versus planned hospital births after regulation of midwifery in British Columbia. CMAJ 166 (3).

College of Midwives of British Columbia (2016). Policy for Home Birth Transport Plan. (<http://cmcb.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Policy-for-Home-Birth-Transport-Plan.pdf>)

APPENDIX

Appendix A WW.02.03A Emergency Transport Registered Midwife Record

Appendix B WW.02.03B Home Birth in Progress & Emergency Transport Nurse Record