WHO recommendation on routine postpartum maternal assessment

17 February 2018

Recommendation

All postpartum women should have regular assessment of vaginal bleeding, uterine contraction, fundal height, temperature and heart rate (pulse) routinely during the first 24 hours starting from the first hour after birth. Blood pressure should be measured shortly after birth. If normal, the second blood pressure measurement should be taken within six hours. Urine void should be documented within six hours.

(Recommended)

Publication history

First published: December 2013

Updated: No update planned

Assessed as up-to-date: December 2013

Remarks

- This recommendation has been integrated from the WHO recommendations on postnatal care of the mother and newborn, in which the GDG for that guideline reached consensus based on existing WHO guidelines. No further remarks were noted.
- The evidence supporting this recommendation can be found in the source guideline document, available at:

  [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/97603/1/9789241506649_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/97603/1/9789241506649_eng.pdf)

Related links

WHO recommendations on intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience

(2018) - full document and evidence tables

Managing Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth: A guide for midwives and doctors