

## Caesarean Section Wound Dressings Standard Operating Procedure

Date	Version
01/02/16	1
<b>Purpose</b>	
The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to provide all staff working within Maternity Services with the essential knowledge regarding the role of the midwife in relation to Caesarean section dressings.	
<b>Who should read this document?</b>	
All midwives All staff working within Maternity Services	
<b>Key messages</b>	
Maintenance of safe patient care	
<b>Accountabilities</b>	
<b>Production</b>	Midwifery Team Lead
<b>Review and approval</b>	Clinical Effectiveness Committee, Women's and Children's
<b>Ratification</b>	Sue Wilkins, Head of Midwifery
<b>Dissemination</b>	To maternity staff
<b>Compliance</b>	To maternity staff
<b>Links to other policies and procedures</b>	
<b>Version History</b>	
<b>V1</b>	01/02/16 Written by Linda Taylor, Midwifery Team Lead.
<b>Last Approval</b>	<b>Due for Review</b>
February 2016	February 2021

*PHNT is committed to creating a fully inclusive and accessible service.*

*Making equality and diversity an integral part of the business will enable us to enhance the services we deliver and better meet the needs of patients and staff.*

*We will treat people with dignity and respect, actively promote equality and diversity, and eliminate all forms of discrimination regardless of (but not limited to) age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership and pregnancy/ maternity.*

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<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Definitions
2	Expected outcomes
3	Care of the caesarean section wound
4	Record Keeping
5	Cross references
6	References

## **1 Purpose**

This document has been formulated to ensure that Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust provides safe and effective care to all women being treated within the Maternity Service. To ensure a standardised level of care is given by a midwife in the post-operative care of a mother's caesarean section wound.

## **2 Expected Outcomes**

- To maintain a safe standard of midwifery care to caesarean section wounds.
- To ensure that the roles of the midwifery staff are clearly defined.

## **3 Care of the caesarean section wound**

At the completion of the caesarean section the surgeon will apply a dressing, which is an absorbent, waterproof and bacteria proof film dressing.

The dressing should remain in place for 5 – 7 days post Caesarean section.

If the dressing is very soiled it should be removed. The wound should be inspected for signs of active bleeding and signs of infection. If an infection is suspected a swab should be taken.

Another absorbent, waterproof and bacteria proof film dressing should be then applied until the wound is 5 – 7 days post Caesarean section.

Most mothers with a BMI over 35 together with other risk factors will have a PICO dressing applied. The dressing should remain in place for 7 days. The pump must be disconnected before the mother takes a shower. The end hangs loose. The pump is reconnected after a shower. The box with the extra dressing and adhesive strips should go home with the mother. Do not cover the white pad on the dressing with adhesive strips as this is the breathability area. The pump should be disconnected prior to removal of the dressing.

## **4 Record keeping**

It is expected that every episode of care is recorded clearly, in chronological order and as contemporaneously as possible by all healthcare professionals as per Hospital

Trust Policy. This is in keeping with standards set by professional colleges i.e. NMC and RCOG.

All entries must have the date and time together with a signature and printed name.

## 5 Cross references

Intrapartum Guideline 19 – Operative delivery – Ventouse, forceps and LSCS

Intrapartum Guideline 26 – Role of the midwife in maternity theatres and post-operative care.

Maternity Theatre Recovery Standard Operating Procedure

Postnatal Guideline 8 – Postnatal Care

## 8 References

Nursing and Midwifery Council, (2015) **The Code**: professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives. London: Nursing and Midwifery Council.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2011) **Caesarean Section**. NICE guideline CG132. London: NICE

Tyrrell S and Burns S ( November 2014) Developing a national guideline for preventing post caesarean infection. *Obstetrics & Gynaecology*, Volume 1, Issue 1, pages 1- 7