

# Driver 1: Readiness

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**Global Aim:** Improve maternal health through hospital-facilitated timely recognition and treatment of obstetric hemorrhage during labor, delivery and the postpartum period.

## Primary Key Driver

**Readiness:** Implementation of standard protocols/processes

## Secondary Drivers

Develop standardized, facility-wide, stage-based OB hemorrhage emergency management plans

Ensure rapid access to medications and maintain readily available hemorrhage cart or equivalent

Conduct interprofessional, interdepartmental team-based training and drills to prepare for recognition and treatment of OB hemorrhage

Implement a process for timely access to supplies, equipment and procedures for QBL documentation and communication at every birth

***\*Respectful care is a universal component of every driver and activity***

# **Develop standardized, facility-wide, stage-based OB hemorrhage emergency management plans**

## **Potentially Better Practices (cont.):**

### **Standardized Protocols**

#### **1. Develop OB hemorrhage protocols with:**

- Checklists and escalation plans
- Massive transfusion protocols
- Communication process with patients/families, including debrief and written info
- Consent & care protocols for patients who decline blood products

#### **2. Establish rapid response team co-led by Nursing, OB, and Anesthesia**

#### **3. Use a digital alert or overheard phrase for OB emergencies to improve team awareness**

# Develop standardized, facility-wide, stage-based OB hemorrhage emergency management plans

## Potentially Better Practices (cont.):

### Facility Readiness

#### 1. Create policy for:

- Facilities without on-site blood bank to ensure O- blood availability
- Timely OR transfer for Stage 2 or higher hemorrhage

#### 2. Identify & plan for high-risk patients to transfer to higher-level maternal care

#### 3. Establish transfer agreements with nearby facilities equipped for placenta accreta spectrum disorders

# POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) RISK ASSESSMENT TABLE • 1.3

## CLINICIAN GUIDELINES:

Each box ☐ represents ONE risk factor. Treat patients with 2 or more medium risk factors as high risk. Prenatal risk assessment is beyond the scope of this document, however performing a prenatal hemorrhage risk assessment and planning is highly recommended. Early identification and management preparation for patients with special considerations such as placental previa/accreta, bleeding disorder, or those who decline blood products will assist in better outcomes. Adjust blood bank orders based on the patient's most recent risk category. When a patient is identified to be at high risk for hemorrhage verify that the blood can be available on the unit within 30 minutes of a medical order.

Plan appropriately for patient and facility factors that may affect how quickly the blood is delivered to the patient. For example,  
 Patient issues: Pre-existing red cell antibody  
 Facility issues: Any problems at your facility related to the blood supply and obtaining blood.

RISK CATEGORY: ADMISSION			
	Low-Risk	Medium-Risk (2 or More Medium Risk Factors Advance Patient to High-Risk Status)	High-Risk
	<input type="checkbox"/> No previous uterine incision	<input type="checkbox"/> gestational age < 37 weeks or > 41 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Has 2 or More Medium Risk Factors
	<input type="checkbox"/> Singleton pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple gestation	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspected abruption or active bleeding more than "bloody show"
	<input type="checkbox"/> ≤4 Previous births	<input type="checkbox"/> >4 Previous births	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspected placenta accreta or percreta
	<input type="checkbox"/> No known bleeding disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior cesarean birth or prior uterine incision	<input type="checkbox"/> Placenta previa, low lying placenta
		<input type="checkbox"/> Large uterine fibroids	<input type="checkbox"/> Known coagulopathy
	<input type="checkbox"/> No history of PPH	<input type="checkbox"/> History of one previous PPH	<input type="checkbox"/> History of more than one previous PPH or a severe PPH (>1,500 mL or blood transfusion)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Hematocrit <30% or hemoglobin <10	<input type="checkbox"/> Hematocrit ≤21% or 12-point drop to ≤ 25% or hemoglobin <8
		<input type="checkbox"/> Intraamniotic infection	<input type="checkbox"/> Platelets <50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Platelets 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> - 100,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Intrauterine fetal demise
		<input type="checkbox"/> Polyhydramnios	<input type="checkbox"/> HELLP syndrome
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-eclampsia	



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PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF  
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

# AWHONN POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) STAGES ALGORITHM V. 1.3

## Primary RN:

- Routine postpartum recovery
- Active management of the 3rd stage
- Administer Oxytocin IV or IM
- Increase surveillance if medium or high PPH risk
- Fundal massage
- Ongoing QBL for ALL births and for 2 hour recovery period
- Determine post-birth risk assessment category
- Report CBL to postpartum nurse assuming care (if applicable)
- Document events and QBL

## Blood Bank (Confirm if already ordered):

- Low risk: Clot only (Type & Hold)
- Medium risk: Type & Screen
- High risk: Type & Cross

## Primary RN:

- Vital signs (including temp) & Ongoing QBLq 5–15 minutes
- Consider warming blanket and fluid warmer
- Ongoing fundal tone assessment and fundal massage
- O2 via face mask to maintain >95%, apply pulse oximeter
- Notify OB Provider of CBL
- Call for RN assistance
- Ensure hemorrhage cart & supplies near room, and uterotonics at bedside
- Empty bladder/insert indwelling catheter
- Ensure IV access (18g) and Increase IV fluid rate of crystalloid solution (LR or NS)
- Notify anesthesia care provider
- Document events and QBL

## Blood Bank:

- Confirm Type & Cross (consider crossmatch of 2 units PRBCs)

## OB Provider:

- Active management of the 3rd stage
  - Oxytocin IV or IM
  - Fundal massage
  - Gentle cord traction
- Determine post-birth risk assessment category and perform the appropriate anticipatory interventions

- Normal postpartum care
- Increase surveillance if medium or high PPH risk

## Obstetric Provider:

- Consider cause: (4T's)

## TONE

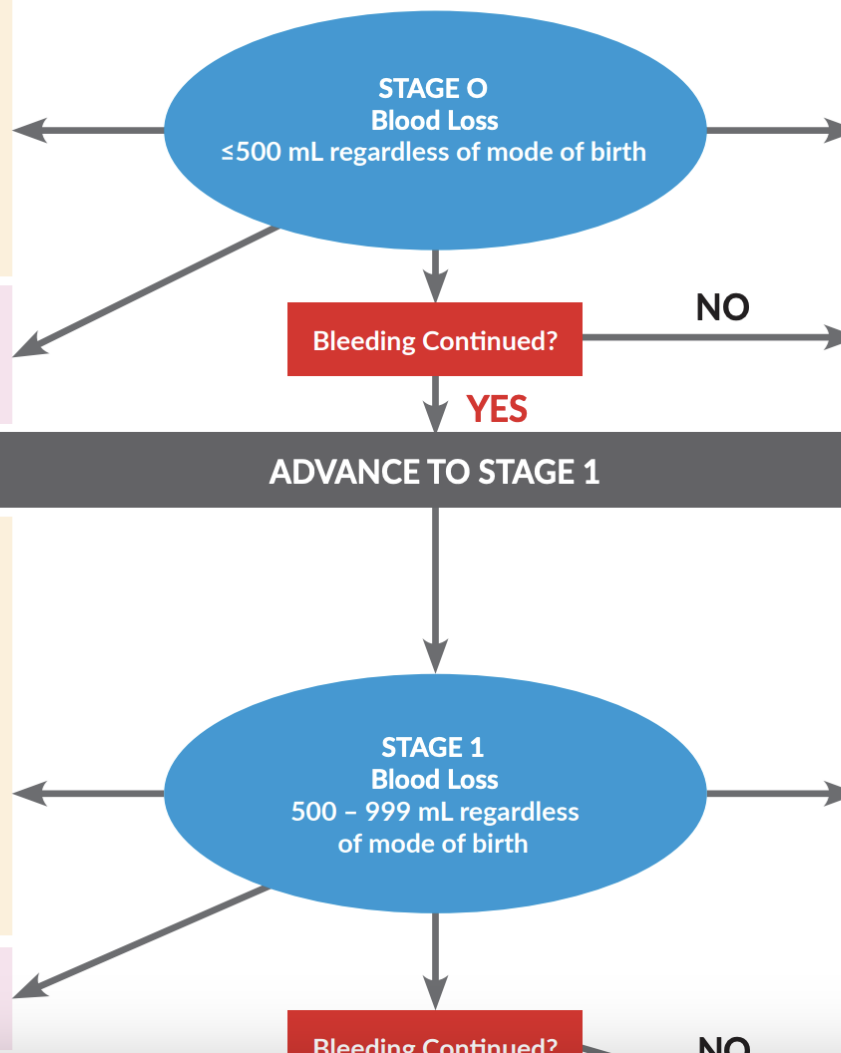
- Bimanual uterine massage
  - Uterotonics
    - Oxytocin 10-30 units per 500mL IV solution over 10-15 min or 10 units IM
    - Methylergonovine 0.2mg IM; Q 2-4 hrs Avoid with HTN
    - Carboprost 0.25mg IM; Q 15-90 min; not to exceed 2mg (8 doses)
    - Avoid with asthma; caution with HTN
- If asthmatic & hypertensive, consider
- Misoprostol 600mcg PO or 800mcg SL; once

## TRAUMA

- Assess for laceration: suture
- Assess for hematomas: drain and repair

## TISSUE

- Assess for retained products: manual removal, D&C



## Appendix C: Obstetric Hemorrhage Care Guidelines: Table Format Errata

7.18.22

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	Assessments	Meds/Procedures	Blood Bank
<b>Stage 0</b>	<b>All births</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessment</li> <li>• Active management of 3rd stage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for every patient according to hemorrhage risk factors</li> <li>• Measure quantitative cumulative blood loss for every birth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Active Management of 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage</b></li> <li>• <b>Oxytocin</b> IV infusion or 10u IM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medium Risk:</b> T&amp;S</li> <li>• <b>High Risk:</b> T&amp;C 2 U</li> <li>• <b>Positive Antibody Screen</b> (prenatal or current, exclude low level anti-D from RhoGam): T&amp;C 2 U</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Triggers: CBL ≥ 500mL vaginal / ≥ 1000 mL cesarean with <i>continued bleeding</i> <u>or</u> Signs of concealed hemorrhage: VS abnormal <u>or</u> trending (HR ≥ 110, BP ≤ 85/45, O2 sat &lt; 95%, shock index 0.9) <u>or</u> Confusion</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate hemorrhage protocol</li> <li>• Rule out hemorrhage causes besides atony</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate OB hemorrhage protocol and checklist</li> <li>• Notify charge nurse, OB/CNM, anesthesiologist</li> <li>• VS, O2 Sat q5 min</li> <li>• Record quantitative cumulative blood loss q5-15 min</li> <li>• Careful inspection <u>with good exposure</u> of vaginal walls, cervix, uterine cavity, placenta. If intra-op, inspect broad ligament, posterior uterus and placenta.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IV Access: Minimum 18 gauge</b></li> <li>• Increase IV fluid (LR) and <b>oxytocin</b> rate</li> <li>• <b>Fundal/bimanual massage</b> <b>MOVE ON</b> to 2<sup>nd</sup> level uterotonic if no response (see Stage 2 meds below)</li> <li>• Empty bladder: Straight cath or Foley with urometer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Convert to High Risk and take appropriate precautions</b></li> </ul> <p>Consider T&amp;C 2 Units PRBCs <i>where clinically appropriate if not already done</i></p>

# Ensure rapid access to medications and maintain readily available hemorrhage cart or equivalent

## Potentially Better Practices:

### 1. Standardized Protocols

- Facility-wide OB hemorrhage policies with checklists & escalation plans
- Rapid response team (OB, Nursing, Anesthesia)
- Patient/family communication & consent plans (including blood declination)

### 2. Supplies & Medications

- Hemorrhage cart with supplies & device instructions
- 1st & 2nd line meds available in OB units, OR, & ED
- Massive transfusion protocol in place



# Resource Examples

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### Appendix E: Checklist: Carts, Kits and Trays

#### OB Hemorrhage Cart: Recommended Supplies

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ▶ IV start supplies                         | ▶ Syringes                            |
| ▶ Angiocaths                                | ▶ Needles                             |
| ▶ IV tubing                                 | ▶ Tegaderm                            |
| ▶ IV extension set                          | ▶ 2x2 gauze                           |
| ▶ Blood product transfusion tubing          | ▶ Adhesive bandages                   |
| ▶ Blood warmer tubing                       | ▶ Alcohol swabs                       |
| ▶ Urinary catheter kit with urometer        | ▶ Paper tape                          |
| ▶ Flashlight                                | ▶ Cloth tape                          |
| ▶ Lubricating jelly                         | ▶ Manual BP cuff                      |
| ▶ Assorted sizes sterile gloves             | ▶ Stethoscope                         |
| ▶ Lab tubes: CBC, coagulation studies, etc. | ▶ Povidone iodine                     |
| ▶ Venipuncture supplies                     | ▶ Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) |
| ▶ Pressure infuser bags                     | ▶ Operating room towels               |
| ▶ Chux                                      | ▶ Sterile speculum                    |

## AdventHealth Tampa Sample Cart



# Conduct interprofessional, interdepartmental team-based training and drills to prepare for recognition and treatment of OB hemorrhage

**Potentially Better Practices:** Ensure that regular PPH simulations are held

- On all shifts for all OB team members (including anesthesia, blood bank, and support departments)
- Test all parts of the system
- Incorporate standardized protocols, tools, & checklists
- Include QBL simulation
- Include use of cart and obtaining medications with use of stage-based algorithm and activation of rapid-response team
- Simulate appropriate patient & family communication (RMC)
- Utilize Team Debrief Form to identify opportunities/gaps

# Resource Examples

- [AIM Learning Modules](#)
- [AWHONN Team Debrief Form](#)
- [AHRQ TeamSTEPPS Rapid Response Module](#)
- [CMQCC Sample Script Provider & Patient PPH Post-Event Debrief](#)



### TeamSTEPPS Diagnosis Improvement Course

Get to know TeamSTEPPS for Diagnosis Improvement and how the TeamSTEPPS framework can be applied to the specific problem of diagnostic error.

### Welcome to TeamSTEPPS 3.0

Get to know TeamSTEPPS 3.0 and the welcome guides.

**AIM**

## AIM PATIENT SAFETY BUNDLE LEARNING MODULES

Each course features a comprehensive overview of an AIM Patient Safety bundle and its key elements.

Click below to learn more!

[Learning Modules Overview](#) ▶

**AHRQ**



**AIM PSB  
LEARNING  
MODULES**

Team Debriefing Form

Person Completing Form:	Title:	Date of Emergency/Drill:
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Staff who Participated in the Emergency/Drill

Staff Name	Role	Staff Name	Role

Time Clinical Emergency/Scenario Commenced:	Time Clinical Emergency/Scenario Concluded:	Length of Time
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Type of Clinical Emergency/Drill:	Recognition	Readiness
<b>Obstetrical/Neonatal Emergency:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Code Blue <input type="checkbox"/> ED/OB Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> ED/OB/OR Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency airway (Neonatal) <input type="checkbox"/> Neonatal Resuscitation <input type="checkbox"/> Postpartum Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/> Prolapsed Cord <input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis (maternal) <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Dystocia <input type="checkbox"/> Uterine Rupture <input type="checkbox"/> Malignant hyperthermia <input type="checkbox"/> Anaphylactoid syndrome of	<input type="checkbox"/> Was there prompt recognition of the emergency/drill (Code blue/Pink called)?  <b>Hemorrhage</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PPH risk assessments performed per protocol?  <b>HTN</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated BP confirmed with manual cuff?  <b>Sepsis</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Was there a unified plan? <input type="checkbox"/> Was there a designated leader? <input type="checkbox"/> Did everyone know their role? <input type="checkbox"/> Did everyone have the necessary equipment? <input type="checkbox"/> Was everyone ready to go?

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Appendix AA: Sample Script: Provider - Patient Postpartum Hemorrhage Post-Event Discussion

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Angelyn Thomas, MD, Alta Bates Medical Center

When discussing a traumatic event with patients and families, it is helpful to consider the following components in formulating a plan for debriefing with the patient.

Initial patient family meeting (after the event):

- ▶ Review clinical course (treatments/ procedures)
- ▶ Clarify facts
- ▶ Include patient and patient approved support persons
- ▶ Discuss the healthcare providers who were involved
- ▶ Utilize skilled communicators/interpreters as appropriate
- ▶ Decide who will lead the discussion

Plan what to say:

- ▶ Manage your emotions
- ▶ Acknowledge something unexpected and untoward has occurred
- ▶ Express regret and concern
- ▶ Listen to the family/patient respond to their needs/questions
- ▶ Address next steps
- ▶ Clearly delineate the contact person(s) for the family and when they can expect a follow-up discussion

AWHONN

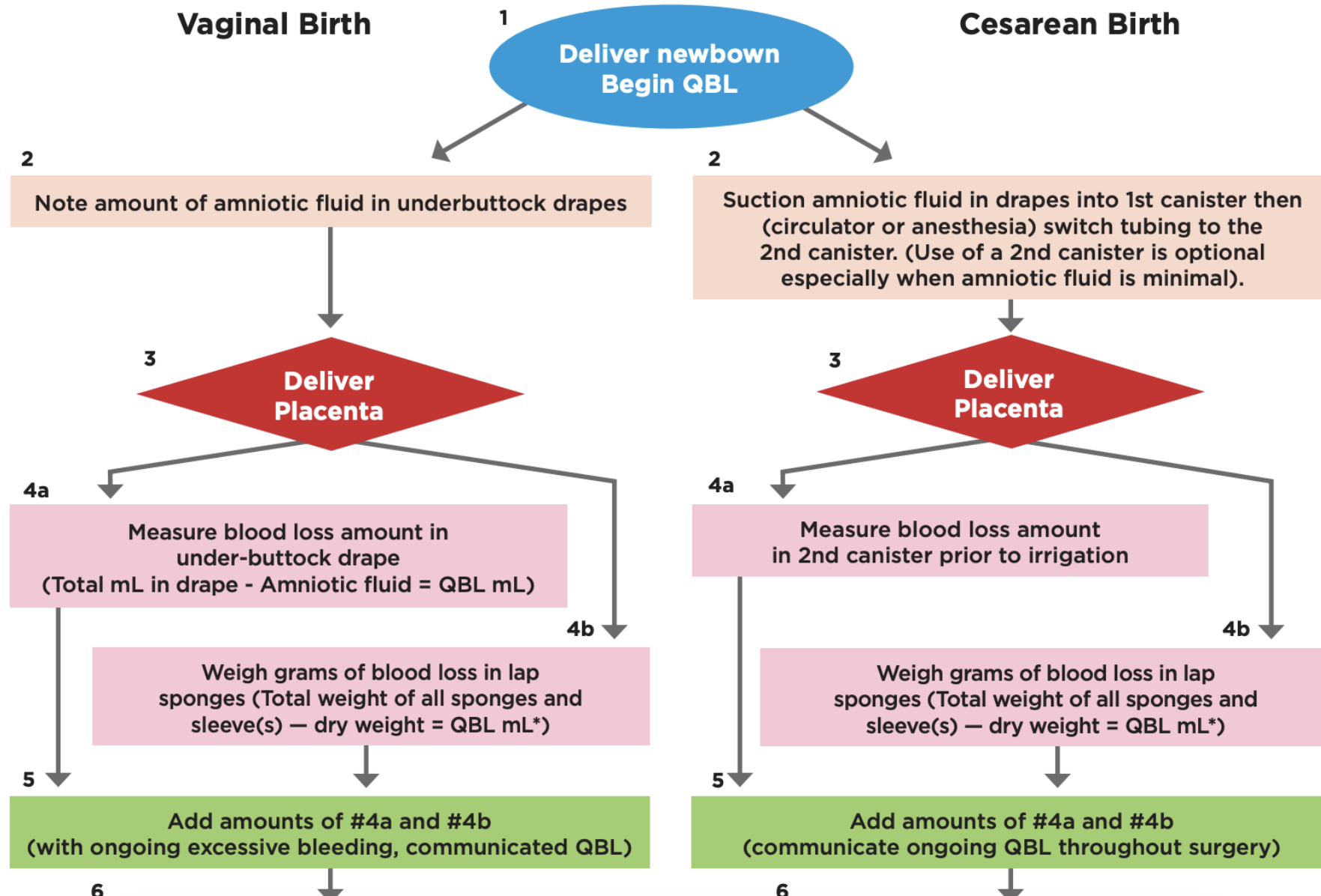
# Implement a process for timely access to supplies, equipment and procedures for QBL documentation and communication at every birth

## Potentially Better Practices:

1. **QBL Assessment:** Perform cumulative QBL throughout PP phase in all care settings.
2. **QBL Lead & Stage-Based Algorithms:** Assign a QBL lead for each birth/hemorrhage event. Pair QBL totals with stage-based algorithms and trigger rapid-response teams when thresholds are met.
3. **Real-Time Updates:** Provide real-time QBL updates to the team at every birth and ensure QBL begins after accounting for amniotic fluid. Track irrigation fluids for accurate QBL calculation.
4. **Room Preparation & Tools:** Ensure calibrated drapes, scales, and calculation tools (e.g., laminated dry weights, apps) are available and used at every birth.
5. **EHR Alerts:** Utilize QBL alerts in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) when available.



# QUANTIFICATION OF BLOOD LOSS (QBL) PROCESS MAP



# Any Questions?

