



Treat the BP PROMPTLY!

Our hospital is participating in the **FPQC PROMPT initiative** to increase the percentage of patients with severe hypertension (HTN) who receive treatment **within 60 minutes**. We are reviewing our performance monthly.

ACOG and SMFM define **persistent severe HTN** as a systolic blood pressure (BP) ≥ 160 mm Hg OR a diastolic BP ≥ 110 mm Hg that persists for 15 minutes or more.

Severe BP readings do not have to be consecutive. Any additional severe reading within 60 minutes of the first severe HTN BP are considered part of a single episode, even if lower (non-severe) readings occur in between.

BP should be checked at least every 15 minutes. Time 0 starts with the first severe measurement in an OB unit. The following table outlines common clinical scenarios:

Please note: S= severe reading; N= non-severe reading

Minutes after onset	0	15	30	45	60	75	Explanation
Example A	S	N	N	N	N	N	Single severe reading with follow-up documented every 15 minutes: not persistent
Example B	S	N	N	S	N	N	2 severe readings within an hour: persistent severe HTN – Treat promptly!
Example C	S	S	N	N	N	N	2 consecutive severe readings: persistent severe HTN – Treat promptly!
Example D	S	-	-	-	-	N	Single severe reading, lack of follow-up within 15 minutes: assume persistent severe HTN, ‘quality’ fall out – Improve BP measurement at every 15 minutes

ACOG and SMFM recommend **treatment with an antihypertensive agent** (Labetalol IV, Hydralazine IV, Nifedipine PO) as soon as reasonably possible after persistent severe HTN is confirmed, or **within 30-60 minutes**. See ACOG algorithm for medication information.



Treat the BP PROMPTLY!

PROMPT Initiative Resources

- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Special Statement: A quality metric for evaluating timely treatment of severe hypertension. *AJOG*. 2022;226(2):B2-B9.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2021.10.007>
- ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 222: Gestational Hypertension and Preeclampsia. Reaffirmed 2023. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-bulletin/articles/2020/06/gestational-hypertension-and-preeclampsia>
- ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 203: Chronic Hypertension in Pregnancy. Reaffirmed 2024. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-bulletin/articles/2019/01/chronic-hypertension-in-pregnancy>
- ACOG Acute Hypertension in Pregnancy & Postpartum Algorithm. 2023. https://www.acog.org/-/media/project/acog/acogorg/files/pdfs/programs/ob-emergencies/hypertension_algorithm.pdf (see Box 3 for treatment recommendations)
- Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative PROMPT Initiative Toolbox. <https://health.usf.edu/publichealth/research/chiles/fpqc/prompt-toolbox>