



# Maternity and Newborn Care Guidelines - Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy

## 1. Background

External resources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice provide a:

- standard for clinical governance and service delivery,
- a range of information and evidence-based practice
- support best practice by all staff for patients and clients.

When applied, the information contained in these guidelines must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

These guidelines do not indicate an exclusive course of action and variations must take into account individual circumstances, clinical judgement, scope of professional practice and patient choice, and may be appropriate dependent on the health care setting. The rationale for any variation to the guidelines must be clearly documented in the individual patient record by the treating practitioner.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these guidelines, no guarantee can be given that the information is free from error or omission. Users are strongly recommended to independently confirm that the information contained within these guidelines and procedures is current, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

**Please note the web-based electronic copy is the master copy for all guidelines, policies and procedures.**

## 2. Policy Statement

WA health system policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all employees (including casual, locum, agency and credentialed visiting practitioners). WACHS supplements these with its own policy suite and also endorses a number of evidence-based guidelines and resources from other WA Health Service Providers and organisations, external to the WA health, for use in clinical practice.

WA health system and WACHS specific policy / medical records, including those for Obstetric, Midwifery and Newborn care, are available via the [HealthPoint Policies](#) intranet site.

**2.1** WACHS endorses the following maternity and newborn clinical policies / guidelines for use by Medical, Midwifery, Nursing, Mental Health and Allied Health staff:

- **Child and Adolescent Health Service** – neonatology guidelines; medication monographs; NETS WA clinical practice guidelines; postnatal wards guidelines; and nutrition room guidelines

CAHS [Neonatology Policy Sets](#)

- **Women and Newborn Health Service - King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) clinical guidelines:** [WNHS-Clinical Policy-Guidelines-Landing page](#)

Links to frequently used KEMH Obstetrics and Gynaecology clinical guidelines can also be found here [WACHS Intranet: Obstetrics and Gynaecology](#)

- [Management of Second Stage of Labour in Low Risk Women at Term – Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice](#)
- **The Australian College of Midwives**  
[National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral \(4th Edition Sept 2021\)](#)
- **The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist (RANZCOG)**  
[RANZCOG - Statements & Guidelines](#)
- **The Newborn Emergency Transport Service WA (NETS)**  
[NETS Medical Guidelines](#)
- **The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) - Western Operations**  
[RFDS Clinical Manuals](#)
- **Queensland Health**  
[Queensland Health Partnering with Women who Decline Recommended care resources](#)
- **Australian Government Department of Health**  
[Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy](#)  
[Commonwealth Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Action Plan 2018-2028](#)  
[The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)  
[The Safer Baby Bundle \(The Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth\)](#)  
[Pregnancy Care Guidelines](#)  
[Woman-centred care: Strategic directions for Australian maternity services](#)
- **Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**  
[Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Tears Clinical Care Standard](#)

### 3. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards](#)

Clinical Governance Standard: 1.15a-c, 1.16 a 7 b, 1.27 a & B

Comprehensive Care Standard: 5.4 a – c, 5.5a, 5.6, 5.7a & b, 5.13 a-f

Communicating for Safety Standard: 6.9 a & B, 6.11 a-c.

### 4. Compliance

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Printed or saved electronic copies of this policy document are considered uncontrolled.  
Always source the current version from [WACHS HealthPoint Policies](#).

Failure to comply with this policy document may constitute a breach of the WA Health system MP0031/16 Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

Staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

**5.1** Executive Directors of Medical, Nursing and Midwifery Services are responsible for:

- acting as the principal endorsement authority for external organisations' clinical policy documents.

**5.2** Area and Regional Medical, Nursing Directors are responsible for:

- participating in the review for appropriateness of external organisations' clinical policy and guideline documents for use by clinicians within the WACHS.

**5.3** All clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

- within their registration status
- in accordance with the codes and guidelines approved by their relevant National Board supported by AHPRA
- within their scope of practice and competence
- within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF) and
- within the context of practice that they are operating.

### 6. Evaluation

The number of reportable clinical incidents or near misses relating to inappropriate care provided by clinicians.

### 7. References

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, [Decision making framework for Nurses \(2013\)](#) and [Decision making framework for Midwives](#) (Feb 2020)

### 8. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality](#)