

**SUBJECT:****UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD  
SAMPLING FOR BLOOD GASES****SECTION:****PC**

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**PURPOSE:**

To set nursing guidelines in obtaining cord blood for gases for acid-base assessment at the time of delivery

**POLICY:**

- Cord gases will be obtained per physician orders to ascertain fetal acid-base levels for the following indications:
  - Cesarean section for fetal compromise
  - Low 5 minute APGAR
  - Severe Growth Restriction
  - Abnormal fetal heart tracing
  - Maternal thyroid disease
  - Intrapartum fever
  - Multiple gestations
  - High risk deliveries
  - Per physician request

**AFFECTED PERSONNEL/AREAS:** MCH DEPARTMENT/ RNs**EQUIPMENT:**

- Gloves
- Arterial blood sampling syringe
- Labels
- Cup with ice

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Don gloves.
2. Obtain an arterial blood sampling syringe.
3. Obtain 3 to 6 inch segment of the umbilical cord and identify the two arteries and one vein.
4. Draw arterial blood sample first, using the bevel down approach, aspirate 0.5 to 1.0 cc from the umbilical artery.
5. Expel any air from syringe.
6. Remove the needle using a hemostat and cap with the rubber stopper.

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**CROSS-REFERENCE:**

- Maternal Child Health Policy & Procedure Manual: Labor & Delivery Standards of Care; Circulating Nurse Vaginal Delivery; Circulating Nurse Cesarean Section

<b>Responsibility for Review and Maintenance of Policy By: Director of Maternal Child Health</b>
<b>Department Review &amp; Approval Date: November 23, 2010</b>
<b>Medical Executive Committee Review &amp; Approval: Date: December 6, 2010</b>
<b>Board of Directors Review and Approval: Date: December 21, 2010</b>

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