WOMEN AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICE
King Edward Memorial Hospital

CLINICAL GUIDELINES
SECTION A: PREFACE

(I) INTRODUCTION, AIMS AND DISCLAIMER

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INTRODUCTION

These clinical guidelines were developed using the Clinical Guideline Development and Review Process for use by the multidisciplinary team members within the Obstetric and Gynaecology Clinical Care Unit, Women and Newborn Health Service (WNHS). In an era of evidence based medicine, guidelines have become one of the critical links between best available evidence and best clinical practice.

The Clinical Guidelines in these manuals may be presented as algorithms, clinical guidelines, clinical pathways, protocols and/or procedures not as policies. The various formats of the Clinical Guidelines are designed to meet the needs of the group of health professionals using them.

AIMS

• To improve the safety and quality of health care.
• To reduce the use of unnecessary, ineffective or harmful interventions.
• To facilitate the treatment of patients with maximum chance of benefit, with minimum risk of harm, and at an acceptable cost.
• To provide a guide to healthcare professionals on the Clinical Management Plans available for the majority of patients, presenting for care.
• To allow for the individual Clinical Management Plans to be developed for individual patients, where necessary.

KEY POINTS

➢ Guidelines may be measured by evaluating desired/expected health outcomes, through quality improvement processes.

➢ The process of guideline development and review should be multidisciplinary and should include consumers where possible. If guidelines are to be relevant, those who are expected to use them or benefit from their use should play a part in their conception, development and review. A multidisciplinary panel consisting of representatives of all relevant groups should be convened. A clear algorithm for development and review is to be used.

➢ The recommendations contained in these guidelines do not indicate an exclusive course of action, or serve as a definitive mode of patient care. Variations, taking individual circumstances and patient choice into account, may be appropriate.

➢ In agencies, other than the tertiary health care setting where they were developed, these guidelines serve as an example of healthcare provided at this level of care. These may be used as a guide to develop clinical guidelines, outside the Tertiary centre, within Western Australia.

➢ The authors of these guidelines have made considerable efforts to ensure the information upon which they are based is accurate and current. Users of these guidelines are strongly recommended to confirm that the information contained within them, especially medication doses, is correct by way of independent sources.
DISCLAIMER

These Clinical Guidelines are intended to provide general advice to the staff of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Care Unit, Women and Newborn Health Service. The Clinical Guidelines should never be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of each patient.

The Clinical Guidelines have been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each member of staff to be fully informed of the particular circumstances of each case, and the application of Clinical Guidelines in each case. Clinical Management must always be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

Each Clinical Guideline, has been prepared with reference to the information available at the time of its preparation.

Whilst the WNHS endeavours to ensure these Clinical Guidelines are accurate at the time of their preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material that may have become available after the issued or reviewed date.

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