5.14.3 SAFE HANDLING OF A PLACENTA BEING TAKEN HOME

1. PURPOSE

Appropriate handling and storage of a placenta which is being taken home by the woman.

2. PROCEDURE

- Requests to release a placenta should be discussed with the midwife, obstetrician and operating room staff prior to the birth or operative procedure when possible.
- If no pathology examination is required, double bag and seal the placenta in clear plastic waste bags.
- Place in a rigid walled leak proof container for the purposes of storage and transport.
- Once sealed the placenta should not be opened again while on hospital premises.
- The container is to be dated and labelled “Human tissue for collection by < insert name of individual>
- The placenta should be taken home on the day of birth and stored in a cool place. Short term storage is not available at KEMH.
- The individual must receive information about the safe disposal of the placenta and complete the Authorisation and release of Human Tissue and Explanted Medical Device Consent Form (see OD 0398/125)
- The placenta may not be taken until all documentation is completed.
- The consent form must be signed by the individual and the midwife/nurse. The original form is to be retained in the patient health record.

REFERENCES (STANDARDS)

National Standards – 3.2, 11.5,

Related Policies – OD 0398/12 Policy for The Release of Human Tissue and Explanted Medical Devices
Other related documents – Nil

RESPONSIBILITY
Do not keep printed versions of guidelines as currency of information cannot be guaranteed. Access the current version from the WNHS website.

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<th>Policy Sponsor</th>
<th>Nursing &amp; Midwifery Director OGCCU</th>
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