

7 CAESAREAN SECTION

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7.9 Maternal Assisted Caesarean Birth
Section B
Clinical Guidelines
King Edward Memorial Hospital
Perth Western Australia

7.9 MATERNAL ASSISTED CAESAREAN BIRTH

AIMS

- To enable women to assist in the birth of their baby at an Elective Caesarean Section.
- To maintain a sterile field throughout the procedure.

KEY POINTS

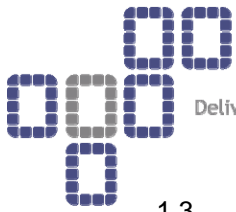
- Women requesting a maternal assisted Caesarean section shall be individually interviewed by the Medical Director Obstetrics regarding their eligibility for this procedure.
- Maternal assisted Caesarean Birth shall only be considered for women undergoing an Elective Caesarean Section.

EQUIPMENT

Nail brush
Chlorhexidine
Alcohol hand rub
Eye shield

Sterile drape small x 1
Sterile Caesarean Section drape
Long length gloves

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
1. Preoperative preparation	
1.1	Ensure the woman is first on the operating list for that day.
1.2	Explain the procedure to woman and her support person.



- 1.3 The woman will require individual consultation with:
- the Anaesthetic Consultant or Senior Registrar on for Caesarean Sections on the booked day of surgery
 - theatre Staff Development Nurse

Consider meeting the women in Preadmission Clinic. Meeting with the theatre CDN is advised so that education can be provided on the procedure and the woman's role. This is essential for co-operation during surgery.

- 1.4 Instruct the woman on nail and hand preparation prior to transfer to the operating theatre.

The woman shall perform a surgical scrub procedure before the insertion of the epidural.

Alcohol rub will be used before the donning of the sterile gloves to ensure minimal risk of infection

2. Procedure in the operating theatre

- 2.1 Give the woman the eye shield which can be removed after prepping.

The shield protects the woman's eyes from potential splash injury from the prepping agent.

- 2.2 The surgical team shall double glove.

As per recommended practice for all procedures

- 2.3 The woman's gown shall be removed before prepping.

The area prepped starts from under the breasts requiring removal of the gown.

- 2.4 The scrub nurse shall be given the appropriate long length gloves for the woman.

These are given to the circulating nurse who assists the woman to put them on when required.

- 2.5 The woman shall be given instructions from the theatre staff to minimize the risk of infection

- alcohol rub will be applied to the woman's hands and arms below the elbows and allowed to dry
- the sterile gloves shall be put on with the assistance of the circulating nurse.
- lift the woman's arms sideways from the table as the caesarean drape is applied
- fold her arms over the caesarean drape

The woman will be draped as usual but instead of raising the drape as a barrier it will be folded over away from the patient's head.

- 2.6 A sterile drape is placed over the woman's hands so they are covered.

The surgeon shall instruct the woman when the baby is ready to be lifted from the incision.



- 2.7 The sterile drape is removed by the circulating nurse from the head of the theatre table when the woman is ready to reach for her baby as directed by the surgeon.
- 2.7 When the woman has a fixed hold on her baby and it has been passed over to her, the top of the caesarean drape shall be unfolded and used as a screen, maintaining a sterile field.
3. Continue care as per routine Caesarean Section theatre guidelines.

The woman shall wait for instruction from the surgeon.

See Clinical Guidelines [Section B 7.5](#)