*Medical Directive*

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| **SECTION:** | Women and Children’s Health | | **MEDICAL DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** | MCU 09-r-165 |
| **SUB-SECTION:** | Medical Directives | | **EFFECTIVE DATE:** | 2021-11-17 |
| **SUBJECT:** | Suspected Rupture of Membranes in Pregnancy | | **LAST REVISION DATE:** |  |
| **SPONSORING / CONTACT PERSON:** | | Manager of Women and Children’s Health | | |

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| **Order/Delegated Procedure:**  Perform point of care qualitative pH-based nitrazine testing to detect a possible rupture of membranes during pregnancy. |
| **Recipient Patients:**  Any patient (admitted or observation) with suspected rupture of membranes during pregnancy. |
| **Authorized Implementers:**  Registered Nurses working in the Women and Children Health Department, who have completed the online module to perform point of care qualitative pH-based nitrazine testing and have received training on the use of this medical directive. |
| **Indications:**  To aid in detecting a possible ruptured membrane during pregnancy.   * The pH of the vagina is normally acidic. Rupture of fetal membranes can result in small amounts of amniotic fluid leaking into the upper vagina. Amniotic fluid has a neutral pH. Thus, the presence of amniotic fluid elevates the pH of the upper vagina. |
| **Contraindications:**  Any patient with obvious rupture of membranes.   * The point of care test is a pH indicator and the vagina may no longer be elevated making the swab results inaccurate. The swab does not identify amniotic fluid itself.   **Alert:** Interference with interpretation of results can occur if any of the following are present in the vagina as they can elevate the vaginal pH:   * + Blood   + Semen   + Urine   + Infections of the vagina   + Antibiotic therapy |
| **Consent:**  Verbal consent will be obtained by the implementer of this medical directive. |
| **Guidelines for Implementation:**  Using a qualitative pH-based nitrazine test:   * Check the expiry date listed on the packaging of the swab. DO NOT use if expired. * Remove swab from protective sleeve (keep swab tip dry away from any liquid). * Part the labia and carefully insert the swab into the vagina. * Ensure the swab tip comes into contact with the upper vaginal tissue (posterior vaginal fornix and external cervical os). Do NOT use swab on peri-pads. * Allow tip to remain in contact with upper vaginal tissue for 15 seconds. * Carefully remove swab from vagina and immediately examine color to determine if predictive pH result is positive (possible membrane rupture) or negative (intact). |
| **Documentation and Communication:**  Document the use of this medical directive, the intervention and the test results in the patient health record.  Communicate results to the most responsible provider (ex. Physician or midwife). |
| **Review and Quality Monitoring Guidelines:**  This medical directive will be reviewed a minimum of every 3 years by the Department of Obstetricians and the Point of Care Committee. |

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| APPENDICES: | A: Signature List | |
| **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:** |  | |
| **REPEALED POLICIES:** |  | |
| **APPROVAL PROCESS:** | Interprofessional Practice Committee: 2021-10-19  Department of OB/GYN: 2021-11-01  Medical Advisory Committee: 2021-11-17 | |
| **APPROVAL SIGNATURE:** |  | Linda Gravel Vice president, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer |



**Medical Directive Number MCU 09-r-165**

**Appendix A - Signature List**

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| **Medical Directive:** | Suspected Rupture of Membranes in Pregnancy |
| **Medical Directive Number:** | MCU 09-r-165 |
| **Effective Date:** | 2021-11-17 |

**Signature(s):**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and Title** | **Signature** | **Date** |
| Dr. O. Dehinbo  Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology |  |  |

