**Purpose:**
To monitor and assist in the obstetrical delivery of an infant in the vertex position

**Indications:**
Patients in labor with imminent delivery and infant in the vertex position

- Examine external perineum for presenting part to determine imminent delivery; if not, begin transport
- Position patient supine with legs flexed, protecting patient's privacy as much as possible
- Place absorbent material under patient's buttocks
- Begin transport if mother shows signs of: hypertension, hypotension, tachycardia > 120/min, decrease in intensity or frequency of contractions, contractions lasting longer than 70 seconds, vaginal bleeding
- Open obstetrical kit, maintaining sterility; start IV; run at keep-open rate unless volume replacement is indicated
- Observe color/content of amniotic fluid; anticipate airway problems in newborn if meconium staining is present
- Maintain gentle pressure against emerging fetal head to prevent explosive delivery
- If cord is looped around infant's neck, attempt to slide cord over body as infant delivers; cutting cord is not recommended until infant is delivered
- Gently guide infant's head downward to deliver top shoulder, then upward to deliver bottom shoulder; using a clean towel, maintain secure grip on infant as body is delivered
- Complete newborn assessment and care, recording time of birth and sex of infant
- Place 2 clamps at least 10 inches from infant's abdomen on cord; cut between clamps, using scalpel in OB kit
  - Clean infant's face; suction mouth and nose as needed
  - Dry infant's skin; wrap in warm, dry blankets; cover head, leaving face exposed
  - Massage maternal abdomen to facilitate contraction of uterus and separation of placenta; do not pull on cord to deliver placenta; when gush of blood indicates separation, instruct mother to "push"
- Place placenta in container and bring with mother and infant to hospital
- Transport mother and infant together, continuously monitoring both
NOTE:
Acquire APGAR score at one and five minutes after birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>0 POINTS</th>
<th>1 POINT</th>
<th>2 POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance (color)</td>
<td>Cyanotic</td>
<td>Body pink, extremities cyanotic</td>
<td>Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Less than 100/minute</td>
<td>More than 100/minute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grimace (response to suctioning)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Vigorous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity (muscle tone)</td>
<td>Limp</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Vigorous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Effort</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Slow, irregular</td>
<td>Strong, crying</td>
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</tbody>
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