

1

Second stage of labour

(Full cervical dilatation or head visible an involuntary urge to bear down)

2

Maternal assessment

- Assess general condition: distress, anxiety, pain
- Perform maternal observations:
 - Pulse every 30 min,
 - Blood pressure hourly
 - Temperature every 2 hours
 - Record urine void and volume, check protein and ketones
- Perineal examination: thinning and bulging, visible descent of fetal head or during contraction, bleeding, meconium, purulent liquor
- Perform abdominal examination every 5 min: frequency, duration and intensity of contractions
- Perform vaginal examination hourly: membranes, fetal presenting part, position and descent, caput, moulding, cord prolapse.
- Document assessments

Management

- Facilitate the presence of a companion of choice throughout labour
- Inform the woman and companion: duration of second stage, food and fluids intake, positions, urge to push, pain relief options
- Encourage comfortable birthing position of woman's choice, as upright as possible
- Provide adequate pain relief

Fetal assessment

Perform intermittent auscultation of fetal heart rate for one minute every 5 minutes

3
Any concerns or complications?

No

4
Urge to push?
OR
Head visible?

Yes

- 5
- Encourage and support to follow own urge to push
 - Apply techniques to reduce perineal trauma
 - Do not perform routine episiotomy
 - Do not apply fundal pressure

6
Any concerns or complications?

Yes

No

7
Spontaneous vaginal birth

Link to normal third stage of labour

8
Fetal heart rate abnormality

Link to abnormal FHR algorithms

9
Abnormal vaginal loss

Link to abnormal vaginal loss algorithm

10
Abnormal uterine contractions

Link to abnormal uterine contraction algorithm

11
Slow progress

Link to abnormal progress of second stage algorithm

12
Abnormal maternal temperature

Link to abnormal temperature algorithm

13
Abnormal maternal heart rate

Link to abnormal heart rate algorithm

14
Abnormal maternal blood pressure

Link to abnormal blood pressure algorithm

15
Urine abnormality

Link to urine abnormalities algorithm