

Midwife's Practice Name, Logo, Contact Info

Example Practice Guideline: Postpartum Hemorrhage

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Last Reviewed: [Insert Date]

Next Review Due: [Insert Date]

Clinical Definition

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is defined as blood loss greater than 500 mL following a vaginal birth, or any amount of blood loss that results in signs of hypovolemia. Signs and symptoms may include excessive vaginal bleeding, hypotension, pallor, tachycardia, dizziness, or uterine atony.

Midwifery Management

Midwifery management may include (not necessarily in this order):

- Assessing uterine tone and massage if atonic
- Encouraging or facilitating placental delivery if not yet complete
- Inspecting for lacerations or retained tissue
- Administering appropriate uterotonics as indicated
- Initiating IV fluids if available
- Monitoring vital signs closely
- Providing oxygen if signs of shock are present
- Continuous assessment of blood loss and client response

Consultation and Referral Criteria

Consult or transfer if:

- Blood loss exceeds 1000 mL
- Uterine massage and medications do not control the bleeding
- Vital signs indicate hypovolemic shock
- Suspected retained placenta or other complications that cannot be managed on site
- Client is unresponsive or deteriorating despite initial interventions

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