



## Obstetrical Hypertension Checklist

Hypertension is one of the most common medical disorders encountered during pregnancy and the second most common of the major causes of pregnancy-related maternal deaths in the United States. Strategies to improve patient safety and reduce liability may include rapid recognition, protocol/guidelines, communication among team members, efficient response, patient and staff education, and complete and accurate documentation.

The following checklist can be used to develop or evaluate your organization's Obstetrical Hypertension in Pregnancy Policy/Process, education, and documentation requirements.

Policy	Yes	No
Do you have an Obstetrical Hypertension in Pregnancy Policy (or a process) that includes:		
A standard for early warning signs, monitoring, and treatment?		
Order sets/algorithms?		
Standard procedures for measurement of blood pressure?		
Plan for obtaining additional evaluation and or consultation?		
Rapid access to medications used for severe hypertension/eclampsia?		
A process for mobilizing additional help?		
Education for women on signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia and follow-up?		
Do you assess and document in all care settings if patients presenting are pregnant or have been pregnant in the past year?		
Do you have a process for timely triage and evaluation of pregnant and postpartum women with hypertension, including the ED and outpatient areas?		
Documentation	Yes	No
Do you require documentation if a patient is pregnant or has been in the past year?		
Do you require documentation of timely blood pressure measurement?		
Do you require documentation of the use of order sets and algorithms?		
Do you require documentation using a standard early warning signs template?		
Do you require documentation of communication for required additional evaluation?		
Do you require documentation of obstetrical hypertension patient education and follow-up?		
Do you require documentation of discussions with patients and support persons related to a significant obstetrical hypertension event?		

Education	Yes	No
Do you provide initial and ongoing training related to appropriate blood pressure measurement?		
Do you provide education for staff related to triage of a pregnant or post-partum patient in the ED?		
Do you provide education for staff related to your Obstetrical Hypertension in Pregnancy Policy/Guideline?		
Do you provide support for patients/families/staff for all significant obstetrical hypertension events?		
Do you require discussions with patients and support persons related to a significant obstetrical hypertension event?		
Do you provide education for staff related to implementing the chain of command to prevent potential delays in treatment?		
Do you provide standard education for all patients related to signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia?		
Do you require a follow-up postpartum visit for patients whose pregnancy was complicated by hypertensive disorders (3-7 days if medication is used to manage hypertension or 7-14 days if no medication is used)?		
Do you complete a medical record review for all significant obstetrical hypertension patients? Do you share learnings from the review?		
Do you conduct unit-based obstetrical hypertension drills?		
Do your drills include debriefings to identify opportunities for improvement?		
Other:		
Notes:		
<p>Complete and comprehensive resources can be found at:  Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care Patient Safety Bundle for Hypertension</p> <p>TJC R3 Report Provision of Care, Treatment and Services standards for Maternal Safety  PC.06.01.03  Hypertension in Pregnancy Task Force Report (ACOG)</p>		

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