

Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure – ALS Local Optional Scope  
**Oxytocin**

Associated Policies:

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- I. Therapeutic Effects
  - A. Causes uterine contraction.
  - B. Causes lactation.
  - C. Slows postpartum vaginal bleeding.
- II. Indications
  - A. Abnormal postpartum vaginal bleeding.
- III. Contraindications
  - A. Absolute:
    - 1. Any condition other than postpartum bleeding.
    - 2. Cesarean section.
  - B. Relative:
    - 1. None.
- IV. Dosage
  - A. IM:
    - 1. 10 units following delivery of placenta.
  - B. IV drip:
    - 1. 10 units in 1000 ml of IV solution.
    - 2. Titrate drip rate according to the severity of bleeding and the uterine response (i.e. may be run wide open if indicated by hemorrhagic shock).
      - a. Reassess uterine tone and provide uterine massage in addition to oxytocin to maintain a firm fundus. Reduce drip rate slowly to maintain a firm fundus.
      - b. Repeat dosing requires Verbal Base Contact.
- V. Adverse Effects
  - A. Anaphylaxis.
  - B. Cardiac arrhythmias.
- VI. Special Instructions
  - A. Verify delivery of the baby and the placenta and that there is not another baby before administering Oxytocin.
  - B. Aggressive use of Oxytocin can cause uterine rupture. Be alert to increased pain or bleeding.
  - C. Hypertension.

**VI. ONLY TO BE USED BY PROVIDER AGENCIES WITH PRIOR NORTH**

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**COAST EMS APPROVAL. ALL USES OF OXYTOCIN MUST BE  
REVIEWED BY THE PROVIDER QIP LIAISON AND BASE HOSPITAL  
PCNC.**

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Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 