

Subject: ALS Medications – Paramedic Local Optional Scope of Practice
Oxytocin (Pitocin) Administration Policy

I. Class

Oxytocic hormone

II. Indications

Severe postpartum vaginal bleeding not responding to fundal massage

III. Therapeutic Effects

Oxytocin is a hormone used to help start or continue labor and to control bleeding after delivery.

IV. Contraindications

A. Absolute:

1. Any condition other than postpartum bleeding.
2. Cesarean section.

B. Relative:

None

V. Administration and 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 run wide open if indicated by hemorrhagic shock).
3. 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.
4. Repeat dosing requires Base Order.

VI. Special Information

1. Verify delivery of the baby and the placenta and that there is not another baby before administering oxytocin.
2. Aggressive use of oxytocin can cause uterine rupture. Be alert to increased pain or bleeding.
3. Be alert for hypertension.
4. Adverse Effects can include anaphylaxis and cardiac arrhythmias.

VII. Base Orders

1. Standing Order if no contraindications
2. Base Order required for repeated dosing.