



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

Circular Letter: DHCQ 11-07-548

TO: Chief Executive Officers, Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: Madeleine Biondolillo, MD
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: July 14, 2011

RE: Maternal and Newborn Service Guidelines and Updates

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of two new Department of Public Health (DPH) Guidelines specific to Maternal and Newborn Services and to provide some regulatory clarification.

Attached are "Guidelines to Assist Hospitals in Developing Protocols for Use of Hydrotherapy for Low Risk Patients in Labor" and "Guidelines for the Transfer of Infants to a Level IB Community-based Service with a Continuing Care Nursery." These guidelines are based on regulations, standards of practice, and consultation with practitioners and members of the Massachusetts DPH Perinatal Advisory Committee.

We are also providing clarification regarding Hospital Licensure Regulation 105 CMR 130.627(A)(10) which states that a mother's medical record shall include "the infant's condition at birth including gestational age, weight, Apgar score, *blood type*, and results of initial physical assessment." The requirement to include the infant's blood type in the mother's medical record is applicable only if the newborn's blood type testing was clinically indicated (e.g., mother is Rh negative). The results of such testing must be included in the mother's medical record, in addition to the newborn's medical record.

If you have any questions, please contact: Gail Palmeri at 617-753-8230 or email gail.palmeri@state.ma.us or Anne DeMatteis at 617-624-5964 or email anne.dematteis@state.ma.us.

We request that you forward this circular letter and attachments at a minimum to the following staff at your hospital: Chief Medical Officer, Chief of Obstetrics, Chief of Pediatrics, Chief of Neonatology, Chief Nursing Officer, Director of Maternal and Child Health, and QA Director/Risk Manager.

Attachments: (A) Guidelines for the Development of Protocols for Use of Hydrotherapy for Low Risk Patients in Labor
(B) Guidelines for Transfer of Infants to a Level IB Community-based Service with a Continuing Care Nursery