

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Postpartum Preeclampsia Checklist

IF PATIENT < 6 WEEKS POSTPARTUM WITH:

- BP \geq 160/110 or
 - BP \geq 140/90 with unremitting headache, visual disturbances, epigastric pain
- Call for Assistance
 - Designate:
 - Team leader
 - Checklist reader/recorder
 - Primary RN
 - Ensure side rails up
 - Call obstetric consult; Document call
 - Place IV; Draw preeclampsia labs
 - CBC Chemistry Panel
 - PT Uric Acid
 - PTT Hepatic Function
 - Fibrinogen Type and Screen
 - Administer seizure prophylaxis
 - Administer antihypertensive therapy
 - Contact MFM or Critical Care for refractory blood pressure
 - Consider indwelling urinary catheter
 - Maintain strict I&O - patient at risk for pulmonary edema
 - Brain imaging if unremitting headache or neurological symptoms

MAGNESIUM SULFATE

Contraindications: pulmonary edema, renal failure, myasthenia gravis

IV access:

- Load 4-6 grams 10% magnesium sulfate in 100 mL solution over 20 min
- Label magnesium sulfate; Connect to labeled infusion pump
- Magnesium sulfate maintenance 1-2 grams/hour

No IV access:

- 10 grams of 50% solution IM (5 g in each buttock)

ANTIHYPERTENSIVE MEDICATIONS

For SBP \geq 160 or DBP \geq 110

- Labetalol** (20 mg, 40, 80 IV* over 2 min, escalating doses, repeat q 10 min); Avoid in asthma or heart failure
- Hydralazine** (5-10 mg IV* over 2 min, repeat q 20 min until target BP reached)
- Oral Nifedipine** (10, 20, 40 mg capsules; repeat BP q 20 min until target BP reached); Capsules should be administered orally, not punctured or otherwise administered sublingually

* Maximum cumulative IV-administered doses should not exceed 220 mg labetalol or 25 mg hydralazine in 24 hours

Note: If first line agents unsuccessful, emergency consult with specialist (MFM, internal medicine, OB anesthesiology, critical care) is recommended

ANTICONVULSANT MEDICATIONS

For recurrent seizures or when magnesium sulfate contraindicated

- Lorazepam (Ativan):** 2-4 mg IV x 1, may repeat once after 10-15 min
- Diazepam (Valium):** 5-10 mg IV q 5-10 min

REVISED OCTOBER 2015