



REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR HOME BIRTH

The following list is the minimum required equipment and supplies for safety at a home birth. Midwives may choose to carry further equipment and supplies depending on their location and clients served. All equipment and supplies must be appropriately cleaned, disinfected or sterilised and functional to ensure safety. It is understood that midwives will use their best clinical judgement in prioritizing their actions in the management of emergency situations. Some emergency procedures, such as umbilical vein cannulation, will not be able to be carried out without additional qualified attendants available to assist.

EQUIPMENT

- Non-electronic instrument for assessing fetal heart rate
- Doppler fetoscope
- Stethoscope
- Infant or neonatal stethoscope
- Sphygmomanometer with appropriately sized cuffs
- Thermometer
- Two hemostats
- One pair of blunt-ended scissors
- One pair of scissors for episiotomy
- Ring forceps
- Speculum or vaginal retractor
- Instruments for UV cannulation
- Portable suction equipment compatible with intubation
- Newborn resuscitation bag and mask including: pressure gauge, PEEP¹ valve and CO₂ detector
- Pulse oximeter
- Newborn laryngeal mask airway
- Suturing instruments
- Portable light source
- Newborn scale
- Measuring tape

MEDICATIONS

- Uterotonic drugs²
- Local anesthetic
- Epinephrine (adult and newborn doses)
- Oxygen (sufficient for transport)
- Eye prophylaxis
- Vitamin K
- IV fluids

SUPPLIES

- Cord clamps or ties
- Antiseptic solution

- Sterile gloves
- Non-sterile gloves
- Sterile lubricant
- Syringes
- Needles (appropriate sizes)
- Suture material
- Urinary catheter supplies
- Supplies for administration of epinephrine and/or fluids for volume expansion via the umbilical vein (UV)³
- Urinalysis supplies
- Venipuncture supplies
- Sharps container
- IV supplies
- Adult and newborn oxygen masks/tubing
- Oral airways

A midwife must carry an emergency birth kit whenever in attendance at a labour, regardless of stage of labour or planned place of birth. The kit must include:

- 2 hemostats
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 cord clamp
- gauze, gloves
- oxytocin (replace monthly)
- syringe with needle

¹ Positive end expiratory pressure valve

² See *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Ordering, and Administering Therapeutics*

³ Minimally syringes, 3-way stop cocks, UV cannula or #5 sterile feeding tube. Midwives may carry other supplies and equipment that support UV cannulation.