

**Table 21.** Essential Components of Safely Administering Oxytocin

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Standardized oxytocin administration protocols and order sets
Checklists for initiation and ongoing assessment of oxytocin
Documentation required (with indication) for induction or augmentation
Fetal status assessment (initial and ongoing)
Uterine activity assessment (initial and ongoing)
Availability of a physician capable of performing an emergency cesarean section if needed
Criteria for decreasing or discontinuing oxytocin
Resuscitative measures clearly defined and documented
Resumption of oxytocin parameters clearly defined
Consideration of other extenuating factors, such as pain medication effects, epidural, fetal demise, etc that might impact oxytocin use and appropriate dosing
Data collection and evaluation related to protocol adherence, cesarean delivery, operative vaginal delivery rates, and maternal and neonatal complication rates