

\*Excerpted from *Guidelines for Oxytocin Administration After Birth AWHONN Practice Brief Number 2*, JOGNN, 44, 161-163; 2015.

### **Guidelines for Oxytocin Administration after Birth: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 2 \***

*Administration Options.* Administer IV oxytocin by providing a bolus dose followed by a total minimum infusion time of 4 hours after birth. For women who are at high risk for a postpartum hemorrhage or who have had cesarean births, continuation beyond 4 hours is recommended. Rate and duration should be titrated according to uterine tone and bleeding.

#### **Option 1**

- Oxytocin **20 units in 1 liter** normal saline (NSS) or lactated Ringer's (LR) solution
- Initial **bolus rate 1000 ml/hour bolus for 30 minutes** (equals 10 units) followed by a **maintenance rate of 125 ml/hour over 3.5 hours** (equals remaining 10 units)

#### **Option 2**

- Some facilities supply only one standard pre-mixed concentration of IV fluid with oxytocin used for both intrapartum labor induction and postpartum third stage management. For those facilities that have only, for example, **30 units in 500 ml of NS or LR solution**, set the infusion pump rate to **334 ml/hour for 30 minutes** (10 units in 167 ml), **then reduce the rate to 95 ml/hour** (remaining 20 units) **over 3.5 hours**.

#### **Option 3**

- Give oxytocin **10 units IM** in women without IV access.

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