



**ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
**Department of Nursing (NRS)**  
**Maternal Child Health (MCH) Policies and Procedures**

**Policy No. 5302 Issue 1**

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**SECTION: PATIENT CARE**

**SUBJECT: BLOOD LOSS, CUMULATIVE QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse Manager

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**POLICY**

Objective quantification of blood loss is obtained for vaginal and cesarean section deliveries in order to recognize life threatening hemorrhage and manage blood product replacement.

**PROCEDURE**

I. Quantification of Blood Loss for Vaginal Deliveries

- A. Immediately after the birth of the baby, the Practitioner will evaluate the baseline volume by using the graduated markers on the under the buttocks drape
- B. After the placenta is delivered the Practitioner will evaluate the fluid loss accumulated in the under the buttocks drape using the graduated markers
- C. The baseline volume is then subtracted from the fluid loss. This difference will equal quantitative blood loss (fluid loss – baseline = actual blood loss). This number is entered in the quantitative blood loss calculator in the electronic health record (EHR)
- D. Weigh all blood-soaked laps immediately after delivery and enter into the QBL calculator in the EHR
- E. The EHR calculates cumulative blood loss as new entries are made

II. Quantification of Blood Loss for Cesarean Deliveries

- A. Immediately after the birth of the baby, the Practitioner suctions amniotic fluid from the field and the Circulating Nurse marks the suction canister to obtain the baseline volume
- B. At the conclusion of the surgery, the Circulating Nurse evaluates the fluid loss in the suction canister
- C. The fluid loss is then subtracted from the baseline (fluid loss – baseline = actual blood loss), This number is entered in the quantitative blood loss calculator in the electronic health record (EHR)
- D. Weigh all blood-soaked items and clots and enter into the quantitative blood loss calculator in the EHR
- E. The EHR calculates cumulative blood loss as new entries are made

III.

Quantification of Blood Loss during Recovery

- A. Quantitative blood loss is assessed and documented by the L&D RN before the patient is transferred to the Mother-Baby Unit (MBU)
- B. Visual Estimated Blood Loss is assessed and documented by the MBU RN when the patient changes her pad during her hospitalization

- C. Blood loss is quantified and documented when a pad is half- or more saturated

IV. Documentation

- A. The registered nurse (RN) documents the quantitative blood loss in the patient's EHR  
B. Notify the Practitioner of a quantitative blood loss equal to or greater than 500 milliliters for vaginal delivery and equal to or greater than 1000 milliliters for cesarean delivery  
For patients experiencing obstetric hemorrhage, refer to Maternal Child Health (MCH) Policy 5260, Hemorrhage: Obstetric

REFERENCES:

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. (2021, July). Quantification of blood loss: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 13. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*, 50(4), 503-505.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogn.2021.04.007>  
Lagrew, D., McNulty, J., Sakowski, C., McCormick, E., & Morton, C. H. (2022). *Improving health care response to obstetric hemorrhage, a California Maternal Quality Collaborative toolkit*. CMQCC.  
<https://www.cmqcc.org/resource/improving-health-care-response-obstetric-hemorrhage-toolkit-version-30-errata-72022>  
Maternal Child Health Policy 5260, Hemorrhage: Obstetric

DEFINITIONS: Quantitative Blood Loss:- An objective method used to evaluate bleeding

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – QBL Worksheet (Postpartum Hemorrhage)  
Attachment B – QBL Worksheet (Cesarean Section)

|                |                   |   |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| APPROVAL DATE: | <u>6/2/2025</u>   | <u>Sheryl Wooldridge, Clinical Director II</u><br>Department/Service Director, Head or Manager          |
|                | <u>8/8/2025</u>   | <u>Department of Women's Health Services</u><br>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee |
|                | <u>8/28/2025</u>  | <u>Nursing Standards Committee</u><br>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee           |
|                | <u>9/24/2025</u>  | <u>Patient Safety and Quality Committee</u><br>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee  |
|                | <u>10/2/2025</u>  | <u>Quality Management Committee</u><br>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee          |
|                | <u>10/23/2025</u> | <u>Medical Executive Committee</u><br>Applicable Administrator, Hospital or Medical Committee           |
|                | <u>1/13/2026</u>  | <u>Board of Supervisors</u><br>Approved by the Governing Body   |

**REPLACES:** Labor and Delivery Policy No. 211.00 Issue 2

**EFFECTIVE:** 5/21/2018

**REVISED:** N/A

**REVIEWED:** N/A

| Item                              | Dry weight in grams<br>without blood | Number of<br>items used | Dry weight |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Blue cloth chux                   | 555 grams                            |                         |            |
| Blue paper chux                   | 42 grams                             |                         |            |
| Draw sheet                        | 336 grams                            |                         |            |
| Fitted sheet                      | 775 grams                            |                         |            |
| Flat sheet                        | 512 grams                            |                         |            |
| Green OR towel                    | 82 grams                             |                         |            |
| Ice pack                          | 218 grams                            |                         |            |
| Large blue diaper from<br>OB bag  | 84 grams                             |                         |            |
| Mini-lap x 1                      | 6 grams                              |                         |            |
| Mini-lap x 5                      | 30 grams                             |                         |            |
| Sterile white towel               | 56 grams                             |                         |            |
| Washcloth                         | 52 grams                             |                         |            |
| White diaper from<br>storage room | 62 grams                             |                         |            |
| White lap sponge x 1              | 20 grams                             |                         |            |
| White lap sponge x 5              | 100 grams                            |                         |            |
| White towel                       | 272 grams                            |                         |            |
| <b>TOTAL DRY</b>                  |                                      |                         |            |
| <b>WEIGHT</b>                     |                                      |                         |            |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Baseline = Fluid obtained after baby delivered       |  |
| Fluid loss = Fluid obtained after placenta delivered |  |
| Actual blood loss = Fluid loss minus baseline        |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Weight of blood soaked items= The weight of any<br>item with blood on it after delivery of the placenta |  |
| Dry weight = weight of materials without blood  |  |
| Cumulative blood loss = Weight of blood soaked<br>materials minus dry weight                            |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| QBL = Actual blood loss plus cumulative blood loss |  |
|--|--|

**1 gram = 1 milliliter**

**Not part of the medical record**

| <b>Section A: Suction canister calculation</b> (calculate prior to irrigation) |    |
|--|----|
| Total in canister after birth of baby  | ml |
| Total in canister prior to irrigation  | ml |
| <b>Section A: Total =</b>  | ml |

| <b>Section B: Lap counter bag calculation</b>   |    |                                 |
|---|----|---------------------------------|
| Place 5 laps in each counter bag. Weigh each bag and record findings on the QBL Worksheet. The first 2 <b>full</b> counter bags subtract 200gm to account for dry lap weight plus moistened lap weight. Each additional <b>full</b> counter bag subtract 100 gm for dry lap weight. The dry weight of each lap equals 20 gms. If counter bag has less than 5 laps subtract 20 gms for each missing lap. |    |                                 |
| Lap counter bag 1:  | ml | Minus dry weight 200 gm =<br>ml |
| Lap counter bag 2:  | ml | Minus dry weight 200 gm =<br>ml |
| Lap counter bag 3:  | ml | Minus dry weight 100 gm =<br>ml |
| Lap counter bag 4:  | ml | Minus dry weight 100 gm =<br>ml |
| Lap counter bag 5:  | ml | Minus dry weight 100 gm =<br>ml |
| Lap counter bag 6:  | ml | Minus dry weight 100 gm =<br>ml |
| Subtract 20 gms for each missing lap  | ml |                                 |
|   |    | <b>Section B: Total =</b><br>ml |

| <b>Quantitative Blood Loss</b>             |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Section A: suction canister total =</b> | ml                  |
| <b>Section B: Lap counter bag total =</b>  | ml                  |
| Add section A and section B =              | ml <b>QBL Total</b> |

**1 gram = 1 milliliter**

**Not part of the medical record**