
KITTITAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES				
OPERATIONAL POLICY	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 18, 2010	NUMBER: 8	SUPERSEDES DATE: NA	PAGE: 1
SUBJECT: SAFETY OF ABANDONED NEWBORNS				

I. PURPOSE

To establish a collaborative plan between Medical Control, the KC EMS and Trauma Care Council, and the KC Fire Chief's Association to ensure the safety of newborn children left by a parent with a qualified person at a fire station, pursuant to the Newborn Safety Act (*the Act*), RCW 13.34.360.

- A. To comply with the key provisions of this law:
 - 1. Summon appropriate resources to meet the newborn's immediate needs
 - 2. Protect the parent's anonymity
 - 3. Gather the medical history of the parents and child
 - 4. Provide referral information to the parent about adoption options, counseling, medical and emotional aftercare services, domestic violence, and the legal rights of the transferring parent.
 - 5. Notify and release the newborn to child protective services (CPS) within 24 hours.

- B. To recognize and prepare for the possibility that a newborn may be left at a non-staffed or volunteer fire station.
 - 1. Have a "parent packet" available at all career and volunteer fire stations.
 - 2. Have appropriate signage at all facilities accepting relinquished babies by July 1, 2011 per RCW 13.34.360. (Career departments)
 - 3. Have appropriate information at all fire stations including a posted list of appropriate sites to relinquish newborns in Kittitas County.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. If delivery has not occurred and appears imminent;
 - 1. EMS Personnel - Follow Obstetrical Emergency Protocols. Provide appropriate care to mother and infant per protocol / standard of care. Request ambulance as needed.
 - 2. Other Qualified Personnel – Call 911 to request ambulance

- B. If Personnel are presented with a newborn and baby is in extremis;
 - 1. EMS Personnel –
 - Follow Newborn Resuscitation or appropriate pediatric care per protocol / standard of care
 - 2. Other Qualified Personnel –

Most recent amendments are in **bold**.

EMS/TC Council approved: 10/07/2010
Fire Chief's Association approved: 11/18/2010
Submitted for WA State DOH Review: 12/01/2010

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- Should perform newborn resuscitation per AHA standards or other CPR training as needed
 - Call 911 to request ambulance
 - Keep baby warm
- C. If Personnel are presented with a stable newborn (not in distress)
1. EMS Personnel –
 - Assess newborn and provide for immediate needs
 - Assess mother if permitted
 - Provide Parent Packet (parent is not required to provide any information in order to transfer the newborn)
 - If permitted by parent, obtain Patient Information, Family Ancestry Chart, and Message to Newborn on available forms
 - If not permitted (provide parent packet), encourage parent to complete and mail information in preaddressed envelope
 2. Other Qualified Personnel – Request ambulance non priority
 - Keep baby warm
 - Provide Parent Packet (parent is not required to provide any information in order to transfer the newborn)
 - If permitted by parent, obtain Patient Information, Family Ancestry Chart, and Message to Newborn on available forms
 - If not permitted, encourage parent to complete and mail information in preaddressed envelope
- D. Transport of Newborn
1. EMS Personnel –
 - Transport to closest hospital or in accordance with on-line medical direction.
 - Notify hospital staff in route of need for Child Protective Service (CPS) referral.
 2. For alternative safe transport in a non-emergency situation contact the Kittitas County SAFE KIDS Traffic Safety Team at 509-962-9775 for proper Child Passenger restraint information, resources, or assistance. For after hours and/or emergencies only call 509-929-3319.
- E. Other

Most recent amendments are in **bold**.

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1. Maintaining parent confidentiality is paramount. Ascertain as much history as appropriate while providing a non-judgmental environment.
Patient care is the priority.

2. Always error on the side of patient care for both newborn and mother.

3. Provide the Parent Information Packet to the parent(s) as soon as possible in case s/he decides to leave. The following information is in the packet.
Patient care is the priority.
 - Introduction Letter to Parent regarding the process
 - Two copies of the following (one for EMS/staff to try to fill out, one to send with parent)
 - Patient Information Form – Newborn Transfer.
 - Family Ancestry Chart (personnel should try to obtain this information)
 - Parent’s Message to Newborn
 - Helpful Information (State and Local Emergency and Support Services Numbers)
 - The Legal Process information
 - Preaddressed envelope to CPS

Note: Two copies of Family Ancestry Chart and Patient Information Form will be with the packet. Personnel should try to obtain information on one copy and the other copy stays in the packet with the parent should parent choose to provide additional information at a later time.

4. Put numbered band on newborn for identification purposes (band should be found attached to outside of Parent Packet. Transfer assigned number (KVCH blood band) to medical incident report. Band number should also be on all documentation transferred with newborn (“Babyboy Doe” or “Babygirl Doe”), and documented in advance on the outside of the Parent Packet. Parent may use this number to identify infant through CPS.

5. If the newborn appears to have been *intentionally* harmed, EMS personnel are to follow local protocols for abused children and notify the police as soon as possible, but not to delay patient care. Do not physically detain the parent.

Most recent amendments are in **bold**.

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6. Nothing in this policy is to be construed as inconsistent with local and state overall protocols and procedures to provide needed care for an infant, child, or other patient, of any age. The primary concern is the safety of all patients.

DEFINITIONS –

Appropriate Location:

- The emergency department of a hospital licensed by the state of Washington, during the hours of operation; or
- A fire station during its hours of operation and while fire personnel are present.

Newborn: A live human being less than seventy-two hours old.

Qualified Person: Any person that the parent transferring the newborn reasonably believes is a bona fide employee, volunteer, or medical staff member of the fire department and who represents to the parent that he or she can and will summon appropriate resources to meet the newborn’s immediate needs. This could be any fire department employee.

Note: ESSB 5236, Sec. 2, (2), (d) A hospital or fire station, its employees, volunteers, and medical staff is immune from any criminal or civil liability for accepting or receiving a newborn under this section.

RELATED DOCUMENTS/FORMS (attached for reference and use)

Parent Information Packet – All documents are located online <http://www.kittitascountyems.org/>

- Introduction Letter to Parent
- Patient Information Form – Newborn Transfer to Hospital
- Family Ancestry Chart
- Parent’s Message to Newborn
- Helpful Information (State and Local Emergency and Support Services Numbers)
- The Legal Process information

RECOMMENDED BY KC EMS/TC COUNCIL:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

RECOMMENDED BY KC FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

APPROVED BY MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Fire Chief’s Association approved: 11/18/2010
Submitted for WA State DOH Review: 12/01/2010