

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF PLACENTA FROM HOSPITAL PER PATIENT'S REQUEST	REFERENCE #
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DEPARTMENT: LABOR AND DELIVERY (4M) REVIEWED BY: MAJ M. YLAGAN MC USAF	EFFECTIVE: DEC 2011
APPROVED BY: CDR J. HILLERY NC USN	REVISED:

BACKGROUND:

A patient may request to have her placenta after birth. This is a request that may be honored based on cultural and religious beliefs.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the staff in honoring a patient's request to remove her placenta from the hospital after birth.

POLICY:

- The placenta will be placed in a plastic container provided by Labor & Delivery (L&D).
- If the Provider determines the need for the placenta to go to pathology for further examination, the patient will not be permitted to take it home.
- If the patient has a communicable disease, including one of the following, but not limited to, the placenta may not be released from L&D:
 - Hepatitis B, C, D
 - HIV/AIDS
- The patient is responsible for bringing a container (i.e. cooler) in which to transport the placenta from the hospital.
- No storage will be made available for the placenta, and the patient's family/significant other will be required to take the placenta home immediately upon receipt.

PROCEDURE:

1. Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Ensure that the Provider has assessed the placenta for intactness and that there is no indication for it to be sent to pathology or maternal disease process.
3. Place the placenta, membranes and cord in the designated plastic container.
4. Place a patient label on the plastic container.

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5. Instruct patient's family or significant other on the following:

- Placenta must be taken home immediately from L&D
- Storage is not available anywhere in the hospital
- The placenta cannot be returned to the hospital
- It may not be transported with the patient to the Mother Baby Unit (MBU)

6. Document hand over of placenta to family or significant other in patient's electronic medical record, including instructions as mentioned above.