



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH
CLUSTER
MATERNITY AND
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Department:	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)		
Document:	Departmental Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Cord Care		
Applies To:	All NICU Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To describe the procedure for providing umbilical cord care.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Umbilical Cord** (also called the navel string, birth cord or funiculus umbilicalis) is a conduit between the developing embryo or fetus and the placenta. During prenatal development, the umbilical cord is physiologically and genetically part of the fetus and (in humans) normally contains two arteries (the umbilical arteries) and one vein (the umbilical vein).

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 The umbilical cord must be checked and assessed by the nurse at every shift to prevent infection.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Cleanse the cord with sterile water if soiled.
- 4.2 Cleanse the cord with alcohol if any indication of inflammation or infection is present with every diaper change.
- 4.3 Leave the cord exposed to air; do not cover with the diaper.
- 4.4 Remove the cord clamp when the cord is dry. An umbilical tie may be used for early clamp removal.
- 4.5 Observe the cord for redness, discharge, odour or bleeding. Notify the physician of any unusual findings.
- 4.6 Parent education:
 - 4.6.1 Keep the cord outside the diaper.
 - 4.6.2 If the cord is soiled, clean with water.
 - 4.6.3 Notify the pediatrician if there is any redness, discharge or odour. Clean the cord with alcohol with every diaper change until the pediatrician can examine the newborn.
 - 4.6.4 The cord will fall off in 1-3 weeks.
- 4.7 Documentation:
 - 4.7.1 Cord care given, condition of the cord and time of cord care.
 - 4.7.2 Findings of redness, discharge, odour or bleeding.
 - 4.7.3 Removal of the cord clamp.
 - 4.7.4 Parent education given and their understanding of the information.

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Sterile water
- 5.2 Alcohol wipes
- 5.3 Cord clamp remover
- 5.4 Umbilical ties

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Physician
- 6.2 Nurse


7. APPENDICES:

N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Ministry of Health, Policies and Procedures in Neonatology, Guidelines for Neonatal Care, page no:191-192

9. APPROVALS:

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