(A) Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Medical Staff and the University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC) that healthcare providers follow the standards set forth in this document.

(B) Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is establish processes for managing patients who present to the Emergency Department (ED) with potential obstetrical and gynecological emergencies.

(C) Procedure

1. UTMC ED providers will manage patients with potential obstetrical or gynecological emergencies as outlined:

   a. Pregnant Patients

      i. Patients greater than 16 (sixteen) weeks gestation:

         a. Evaluate and stabilize patient within the capabilities of the UTMC ED.

         b. Arrange transfer to the facility where the patient's Obstetrician (OB) practices or to a facility with the appropriate level of care.

         c. If delivery appears imminent or the patient is not stable, request the Neonatal Team from the receiving facility be sent to the UTMC ED to assist in stabilization and transport of the patient(s).

      ii. Patients less than 16 (sixteen) weeks gestation:

         a. Evaluate and stabilize patient within the capabilities of the UTMC ED.

         b. Further evaluation, disposition, management and possible transfer will be decided by the UTMC ED attending in collaboration with the patient's OB attending or the OB attending on call at a facility with the appropriate level of care.

         c. If the decision is made to discharge the patient, follow up should be arranged through the patient’s private OB attending or the UTMC Ruppert OB/Gyn Clinic.

   iii. Patients in labor:

      a. Provide medical treatment within the capabilities of the UTMC ED that minimizes the risks to the patient’s health and the health of the unborn child.

      b. A patient in labor may only be transferred if:

         i. The patient or the patient’s representative requests the transfer; or
ii. A physician signs and dates a certification that the benefits of transfer outweigh the risks to the patient and the unborn child.

c. Arrange transfer to the facility where the patient's Obstetrician (OB) practices or to a facility with the appropriate level of care.

d. If delivery appears imminent or the patient is not stable, request the Neonatal Team from the receiving facility be sent to the UTMC ED to assist in stabilization and transport of the patient(s).

b. Non-pregnant Patients with Gynecological Emergencies:

i. Evaluate and stabilize patient within the capabilities of the UTMC ED.

ii. Arrange transfer to the facility where the patient's Gynecologist practices or the facility with the appropriate level of care.

2. Requirements Regarding Transfers:

a. When a patient presents to the UTMC ED with an emergency medical condition, the UTMC ED must either (1) provide medical examination and treatment as required to stabilize the medical condition within the capabilities of the staff and facilities available or (2) transfer the patient to a facility with the appropriate level of care.

b. If transfer of a patient with a condition that has not been stabilized is required:

i. UTMC ED must provide medical treatment within its capacity that minimizes the risks to the patient’s health, and in the case of a patient in labor, the health of the unborn child;

ii. The receiving facility must agree to accept the transfer of the patient and have available space and qualified personnel for treatment of the patient;

iii. UTMC ED must send all medical records related to the emergency condition which the patient has presented that are available at the time of the transfer and the name and address of any on-call physician who has refused or failed to appear within a reasonable time to provide necessary stabilizing treatment; and

iv. The transfer must be effected through qualified personnel and transportation equipment, as required.

Approved by:

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Review/Revision Completed By:
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ED
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Review/Revision Date:
6/12/01
6/12/02
4/29/05
7/23/2008
8/25/2011
8/1/2014
6/1/2017
10/1/2018

Next Review Date: 10/1/2021

Policies Superseded by This Policy: 7-53-21, 3364-87-34

It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.