CLINICAL AREA: Maternity Unit
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF: Ephedrine
FOR THE TREATMENT OF: Hypotension during epidural infusion

RATIONALE:
To ensure safe, efficient and timely administration of ephedrine as clinically indicated in cases of maternal hypotension

STANDARD:
Registered Midwives may administer ephedrine as per the standing order

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1. **SCOPE:** Women in labour who have an epidural in situ.

2. **INDICATION OF WHEN THE DRUG CAN BE ADMINISTERED:** Individual action thresholds to be set in the epidural management clinical plan by the anaesthetist.

The ephedrine should be commenced **alongside** putting the patient in left lateral position, administering O2 via face mask, rapid infusion of Plasmalyte and urgently contacting the anaesthetist.

3. **SPECIFIC CONTRAINDICATIONS/PRECAUTIONS:** Do not use if there is any sign of bleeding in the woman as this may require alternative management and an obstetrician should be urgently contacted.

4. **DOSE ROUTE AND FREQUENCY**: **STOP** the epidural infusion then administer the following:
   a. Ephedrine pre-filled syringe 3 milligrams (mg) per millilitre (mL)
   b. Administer 2ml (6 mg) intravenously stat
   c. Repeat every 3 minutes as required by the clinical condition of the woman or as instructed by the anaesthetist

5. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**: The woman's medication chart; epidural observations chart and clinical records
   a) Co-signed by the issuer within one day of administration

6. **COMPETENCY:** Registered midwives may administer the ephedrine.

DATE: 2019

SIGNED:

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