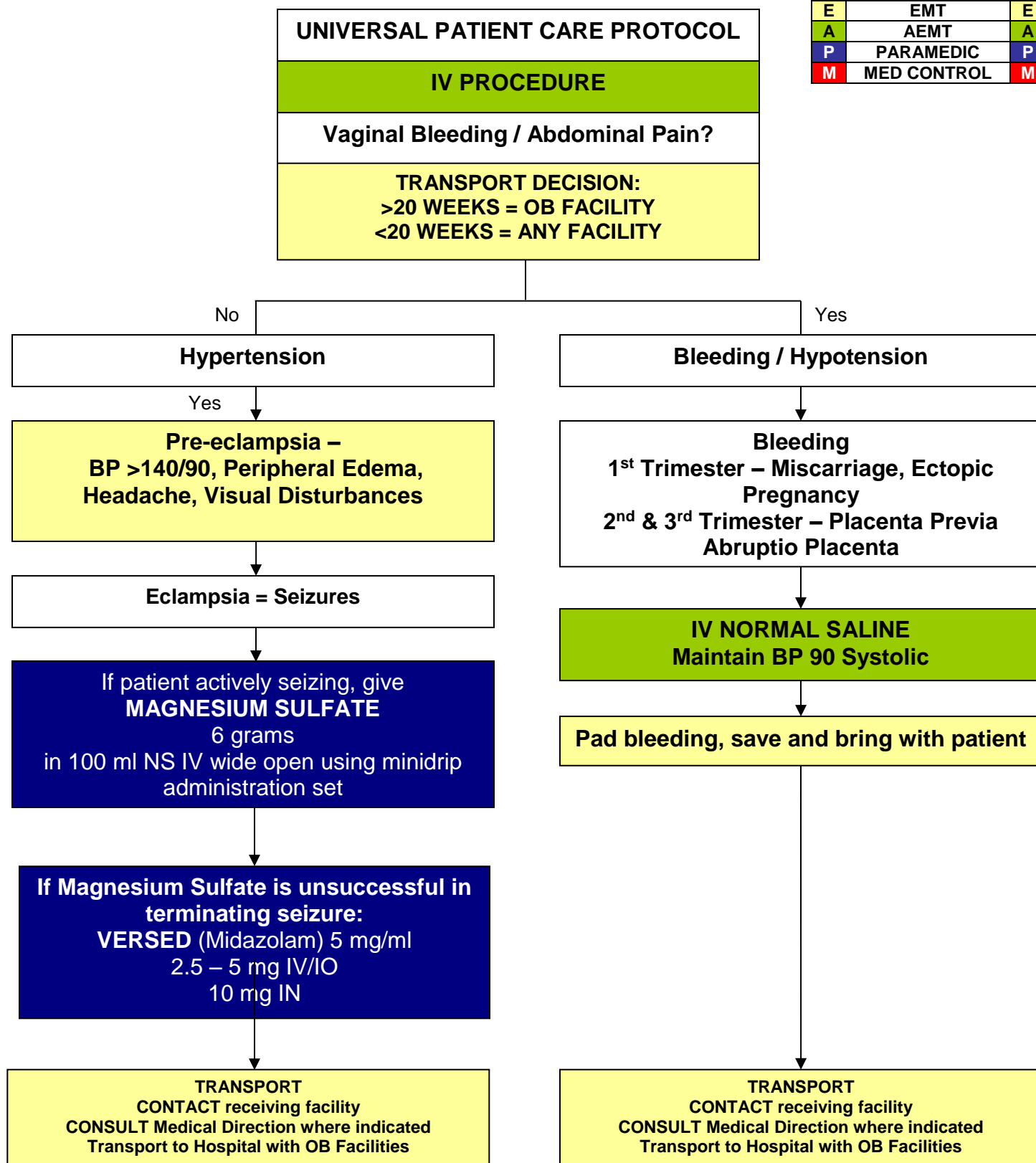




Section 12: Obstetrical Emergency Protocols

OBSTETRICAL EMERGENCIES: OB EMERGENCIES

E	EMT	E
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P
M	MED CONTROL	M





Section 12: Obstetrical Emergency Protocols

OBSTETRICAL EMERGENCIES: OB EMERGENCIES-Cont.

PEARLS and KEY POINTS

HISTORY	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past medical history • Hypertension meds • Prenatal care • Prior pregnancies / births • Gravida (pregnancies) / para (live births) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaginal bleeding • Abdominal pain • Seizures • Hypertension • Severe headache • Visual changes • Edema of hands and face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-eclampsia / eclampsia • Placenta previa • Placenta abruptio • Spontaneous abortion

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam: Mental Status, Abdomen, Heart, Lungs, Neuro <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any woman of child bearing age with syncope should be considered an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise. • May place patient in a left lateral position to minimize risk of supine hypotensive syndrome. • Ask patient to quantify bleeding - number of pads used per hour. • Any pregnant patient involved in a MVC should be seen immediately by a physician for evaluation and fetal monitoring. • DO NOT apply packing into the vagina. • Be alert for fluid overload when administering fluids. • Consider starting a second IV if the patient is experiencing excessive vaginal bleeding or hypotension maintain BP 90 systolic, • Transport to an appropriate OB facility if the patient is pregnant, <p>Abortion / Miscarriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient may be complaining of cramping, nausea, and vomiting. • Be sure to gather any expelled tissue and transport it to the receiving facility. • Signs of infection may not be present if the abortion/miscarriage was recent. • An abortion is any pregnancy that fails to survive over 20 weeks. When it occurs naturally, it is commonly called a "miscarriage". <p>Abruptio Placenta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually occurs after 20 weeks. • Dark red vaginal bleeding. • May only experience internal bleeding. • May complain of a "tearing" abdominal pain. <p>Ectopic Pregnancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient may have missed a menstrual period or had a positive pregnancy test. • Acute unilateral lower abdominal pain that may radiate to the shoulder. • Any female of childbearing age complaining of abdominal pain is considered to have an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise. <p>Pelvic Inflammatory Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be tactful when questioning the patient to prevent embarrassment. • Diffuse back pain. • Possibly lower abdominal pain. • Pain during intercourse. • Nausea, vomiting, or fever. • Vaginal discharge. • May walk with an altered gait do to abdominal pain. <p>Placenta Previa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually occurs during the last trimester. • Painless. • Bright red vaginal bleeding. <p>Post Partum Hemorrhage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post partum blood loss greater than 300 - 500 ml. • Bright red vaginal bleeding. • Be alert for shock and hypotension. <p>Uterine Inversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The uterine tissue presents from the vaginal canal. Cover with sterile saline dressing. • Be alert for vaginal bleeding and shock. <p>Pre-Eclampsia / Eclampsia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe headache, vision changes, or RUQ pain may indicate pre-eclampsia. • In the setting of pregnancy, hypertension is defined as a BP greater than 140 systolic and greater than 90 diastolic, or a relative increase of 30 systolic and 20 diastolic from the patient's normal (pre-pregnancy) blood pressure. <p>Uterine Rupture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often caused by prolonged, obstructed, or non-progressive labor. • Severe abdominal pain. <p>Vaginal Bleeding</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">If the patient is experiencing vaginal bleeding, DO NOT pack the vagina, pad on outside only</p>
