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## ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND MEDICATIONS

The following list is the minimum required equipment, supplies and medications, necessary for the provision of safe and appropriate care in a home birth setting. There may be further equipment and supplies that midwives may choose to carry depending on their clients' needs in individual settings.

It is expected that all equipment and supplies will be appropriately cleaned, disinfected, sterilized and fully functional in order to ensure client safety<sup>1</sup>.

### EQUIPMENT

- Regular fetoscope
- Doppler fetoscope
- Adult Stethoscope
- Infant Stethoscope
- Sphygmomanometer and adequate sized cuffs
- Thermometer
- Baby scale
- Ophthalmoscope or other suitable method for assessing red reflex
- Infant resuscitation bag and mask
- Sterile speculum
- Heat source for the baby (i.e. heating pad)
- Suitable time-keeping device
- Four hemostats
- One pair scissors for cord cutting
- One pair scissors for episiotomy
- Needle driver
- Mosquito forcep

  

- Scissors for suturing
- Ring forceps

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<sup>1</sup> *Routine Practices and Additional Precaution for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care*, July 1999 <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/99vol25/25s4/index.html>;  
*Preventing the Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens in Health Care and Public Service Settings*, May 1997 <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/97vol23/23s3/index.html>.

Portable suction equipment

## **SUPPLIES**

Cord blood tubes  
Cord clamps or ties  
Sterile gloves  
Clean gloves  
Sterile lubricant  
Infection control supplies as needed to meet public health guidelines and directives <sup>2</sup>  
Urinalysis supplies  
Blood drawing supplies and tubes  
Amnicator or suitable method for assessing amniotic fluid  
Maternal non-rebreathing oxygen mask  
Feeding tubes (8 Fr.)  
Syringes  
Needles  
IV supplies  
IV fluids  
Urinary catheters  
Amnihook or suitable alternative for rupturing membranes  
Infant oropharyngeal airways  
Suture material  
Sharps and points waste container  
Antiseptic solution

## **MEDICATIONS**

Oxygen – sufficient for transport of mother and baby  
Oxytocic drugs  
Epinephrine hydrochloride (1:1,000)  
Diphenhydramine hydrochloride (Benadryl)  
Local anesthetic  
Eye prophylaxis  
Vitamin K

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<sup>2</sup> Preventing Respiratory Illnesses In Community Settings - Infection Control and Surveillance for Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI) in Community Settings in Non-Outbreak Conditions, March 2004  
[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/sars/sars\\_mn.html#1](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/sars/sars_mn.html#1)