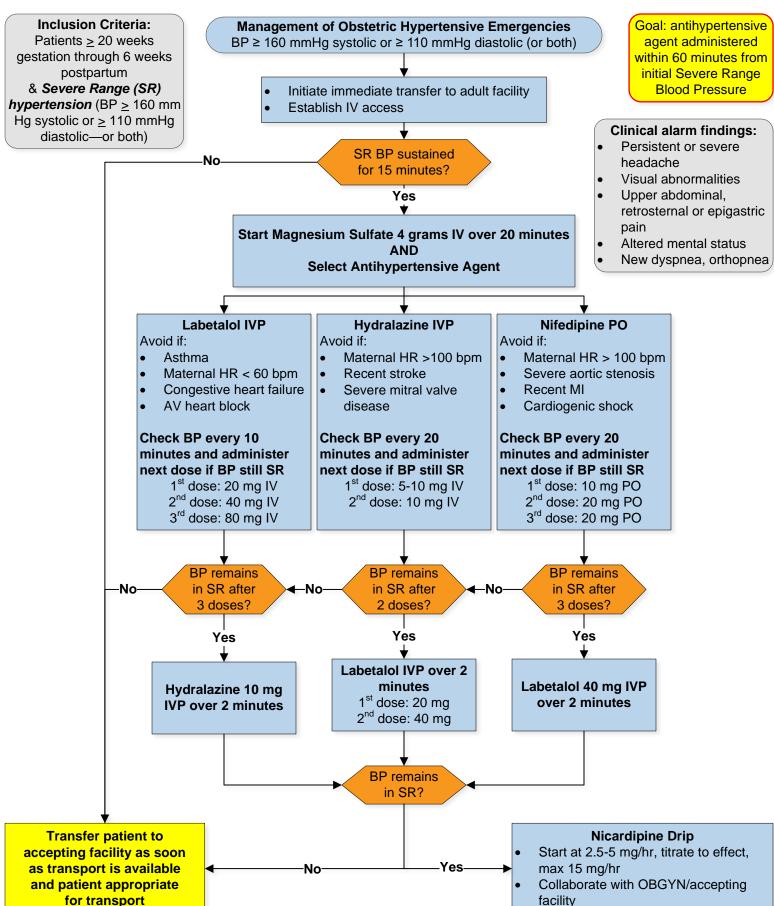


Obstetric Hypertensive Emergency

Emergency Department & Inpatient

Center for Clinical Excellence



Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

 Patients ≥ 20 weeks gestational age through 6 weeks postpartum & Severe Range (SR) hypertension

Exclusion Criteria

 Hypertension not related to pregnancy or postpartum condition

Definition & Clinical Signs

Severe Range Hypertension

• BP ≥ 160 mmHg systolic or ≥ 110 mmHg diastolic, or both

Clinical Alarm Findings

- Persistent or severe headache
- Visual Abnormalities
- Upper abdominal, retrosternal or epigastric pain
- Altered mental status
- New dyspnea, orthopnea

Severity Assessment

- Initiate treatment if SR BP persistent for 15 minutes
- Continue with plans for immediate transfer to adult facility even if BP not in SR for 15 minutes

Escalation of Care & Transfer

- Seizure
 - Antihypertensive medication
 - Magnesium sulfate is the antiseizure medication of choice
 - Contact NCH OBGYN service and / or discuss with receiving adult facility
- Transfer
 - Transfer to accepting facility as soon as transport is available and patient ready for transport

Goals

- Timely recognition of severe range BP in pregnant and postpartum females and initiation of appropriate treatment
- Goal = antihypertensive agent administered within 60 minutes from initial severe range blood pressure

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Quality Measures

- Time from recognition of sustained SR hypertension to administration of antihypertensive medication
- Time from recognition of SR hypertension to transport to adult facility

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Clinical Pathway Development

This clinical pathway was developed using the process described in the NCH Clinical Pathway Development Manual Version 6, 2022. Clinical Pathways at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) are standards which provide general guidance to clinicians. Patient choice, clinician judgment, and other relevant factors in diagnosing and treating patients remain central to the selection of diagnostic tests and therapy. The ordering provider assumes all risks associates with care decisions. NCH assumes no responsibility for any adverse consequences, errors, or omissions that may arise from the use or reliance on these guidelines. NCH's clinical pathways are reviewed periodically for consistency with new evidence; however, new developments may not be represented, and NCH makes no guarantees, representations, or warranties with respect to the information provided in this clinical pathway.

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