

Chapter H 29

**MATERNITY HOSPITALS AND HOMES—
OBSTETRICAL AND NURSERY
FACILITIES**

H 29.01	Wearing apparel in delivery room	H 29.28	Availability of infant clothing
H 29.02	Static electricity from wearing apparel	H 29.30	Infant care
H 29.03	Availability of blood plasma, oxygen, silver nitrate, etc.—recommendation	H 29.31	Bassinet and equipment—recommendation
H 29.04	Whole blood	H 29.32	Infant feeding
H 29.05	Sterilizing of delivery room equipment	H 29.33	Transporting infants
H 29.10	Visiting rules	H 29.34	Weighing infants
H 29.11	Non-admission of children	H 29.35	Shielded bassinets
H 29.12	Limitation of visitors—recommendation	H 29.40	Hand washing—physicians and nurses
H 29.13	Non-admission of visitors— infectious disease	H 29.41	Gowns, caps and masks
H 29.14	Restrictions for visitors— nursery and delivery rooms	H 29.42	Mask technique
H 29.15	Restriction for visitors, patient rooms—recommendation	H 29.43	Oxygen in the nursery
H 29.16	Restriction for visitors— rooming-in technique	H 29.44	Boric acid forbidden
H 29.17	Smoking restrictions	H 29.45	Incubator — recommendation
H 29.20	Storing and labeling of drugs	H 29.46	Weighing infants—liveborn and stillborn
H 29.21	Drug cabinet	H 29.47	Circumcision
H 29.22	Sterilization of equipment	H 29.48	Sick babies
H 29.23	Means of transportation	H 29.50	Infant feeding—recommendation
H 29.24	Separation of infant laundry	H 29.51	Prescription of formulas
H 29.25	Autoclaving—nursery linen	H 29.52	Supervision of formulas— recommendation
H 29.26	Container—soiled diapers	H 29.53	Preparation of formula
H 29.27	Container—soiled linen	H 29.54	Formula room restrictions
		H 29.55	Sterilizing—bottles and nipples
		H 29.56	Wearing apparel—formula preparation
		H 29.57	Terminal sterilization of formula
		H 29.58	Refrigeration of formula

H 29.01 Wearing apparel in delivery room. All persons in the delivery room during a delivery shall wear clean gowns, caps, masks and conductive shoes.

H 29.02 Static electricity from wearing apparel. Materials which accumulate static electricity shall not be worn or used.

(Note: The following is from Recommended Safe Practice for Hospital Operating Rooms, National Fire Protection Association Bulletin No. 56: "Outer garments . . . worn by operating room personnel and visitors shall not include fabrics of silk, wool or synthetic textile materials such as sharkskin, nylon or rayon." "No woolen blankets shall be permitted in the operating room." "The operating table pad shall be covered with a conductive material.")

H 29.03 Availability of blood plasma, oxygen, silver nitrate, etc.—recommendation. It is recommended that blood plasma, intravenous fluids, oxygen, oxytocics and silver nitrate be available in every delivery suite at all times.

H 29.04 Whole blood. Whole blood shall be available.

(Note: A list of available donors who have been previously typed may be used in smaller hospitals and homes.)

H 29.05 Sterilizing of delivery room equipment. All linens, rubber goods, dressings and instruments shall be adequately sterilized.

(Note: The following methods are recommended in Water's Aseptic Treatment of Wounds, Macmillan Company, New York: Instruments and rubber gloves subjected to saturated steam at 121° C.—approximately 250° F. or 15 pounds steam pressure—for 15 minutes. Linens and dressings subjected to saturated steam at 121° C. for 30 minutes. Cutting edge instruments may be soaked in a germicidal solution from 30 minutes to 3 hours, depending upon the strength and chemical composition of solution—or boiled for 15 minutes in a 2 per cent solution of sodium carbonate or sterile mineral oil. Kelly pads, sheets and other rubber goods should be soaked in an alkaline formalin solution for two hours.)

H 29.10 Visiting rules. Visiting rules shall be prominently posted in the hospital.

H 29.11 Non-admission of children. Children under 16 years of age shall not be admitted as visitors to the maternity division.

H 29.12 Limitation of visitors—recommendation. It is recommended that patients be allowed no more than two visitors.

H 29.13 Non-admission of visitors—infectious disease. No visitor shall be admitted who has a cold or other infectious disease, has recently recovered from a disease, or has recently had contact with such disease.

H 29.14 Restrictions for visitors—nursery and delivery rooms. Visitors shall not have contact with nursery infants at any time and shall not be admitted to the delivery room or nursery.

H 29.15 Restriction for visitors, patient rooms—recommendation. It is recommended that visitors should not sit or place their wraps on the bed.

H 29.16 Restriction for visitors—rooming-in technique. When the rooming-in plan is used, visitors shall be restricted to the father or one other person selected by the mother.

(Note: A good educational program during the prenatal period of the mother will help in enforcing all these requirements and recommendations.)

H 29.17 Smoking restrictions. Smoking shall be prohibited in the delivery rooms, nurseries, corridors and any place where explosive gases are present, used or stored.

H 29.20 Storing and labeling of drugs. All drugs shall be plainly labeled, stored in a specially designed area, and made accessible only to the nursing personnel.

H 29.21 Drug cabinet. The cabinet for drugs shall be well illuminated.

(Note: Narcotics must be handled in compliance with the Harrison Narcotic Act and "dangerous drugs" in compliance with Wisconsin statutes.)

H 29.22 Sterilization of equipment. Equipment used by other patients shall be sterilized before being used for maternity patients.

H 29.23 Means of transportation. Litters, wheel stretchers and wheel chairs shall be provided when necessary to transport patients.

H 29.24 Separation of infant laundry. All linens, blankets and garments used for newborn infants shall be washed separately from general laundry.

H 29.25 Autoclaving—nursery linen. All linens, blankets and garments in nurseries shall be autoclaved at between 250°–260° F. for 30 minutes.

H 29.26 Container—soiled diapers. Each nursery shall have for soiled diapers at least one sanitary container with a foot-controlled cover.

H 29.27 Container—soiled linen. Each nursery shall have a linen hamper with removable bag or chute for soiled linens other than diapers.

H 29.28 Availability of infant clothing. The hospital shall furnish all clothing needed by infant while in the hospital.

H 29.30 Infant care. Each baby shall receive care in his crib with individual equipment. A common bathing table shall not be used.

H 29.31 Bassinet and equipment—recommendation. It is recommended that each bassinet be of a type easily cleaned and on an individual stand. The unit and all individual equipment shall be thoroughly cleaned between infants.

H 29.32 Infant feeding. All infants shall be individually fed by hospital personnel or parents. Bottles shall not be propped.

H 29.33 Transporting infants. Infants shall be transported individually. Carts shall not be used as common carriers.

H 29.34 Weighing infants. Each nursery shall have a scale for weighing infants. A clean individual paper or cloth shall be used for each weighing.

H 29.35 Shielded bassinets. If shielded bassinets are used the infant's head shall be within six inches of circulating air.

H 29.40 Hand washing—physicians and nurses. Strict hand washing technique shall be maintained by physicians and nursing personnel before and after handling each infant.

H 29.41 Gowns, caps and masks. All persons entering the nursery suite shall put on a clean gown, cap and mask. These articles will no longer be considered clean if worn outside the obstetric department.

H 29.42 Mask technique. Good mask technique shall be used:

(1) Masks shall be washed and sterilized in an autoclave before using.

(2) Masks shall be changed at least every two hours and discarded into a bag marked "soiled masks".

(3) Mask shall cover nose as well as mouth at all times.

(4) Mask shall not be left hanging around neck or carried in pocket or belt.

(5) Hands shall be washed with soap and water after touching a used mask.

H 29.43 Oxygen in the nursery. Oxygen shall be readily available in nursery at all times.

H 29.44 Boric acid forbidden. Boric acid powder, crystals or solution shall not be kept in the nursery or anywhere in the maternity division.

H 29.45 Incubator—recommendation. It is recommended that each nursery have at least one Underwriters' Laboratories approved incubator. Such incubator shall meet the following specifications:

- (1) Maintain desired temperature and relative humidity.
- (2) Permit safe use of oxygen.
- (3) Provide for circulation of fresh air.

H 29.46 Weighing infants—liveborn and stillborn. Provision shall be made for weighing of all liveborn and stillborn infants.

H 29.47 Circumcision. Circumcision as a religious ritual must be performed under aseptic technique with a nurse or physician in attendance.

H 29.48 Sick babies. The suspect nursery shall not be used for sick babies brought into the hospital from homes.

H 29.50 Infant feeding—recommendation. Breast feeding is recommended.

H 29.51 Prescription of formulas. It is the responsibility of the physician to prescribe all formulas. No formula shall be started without his order.

H 29.52 Supervision of formulas—recommendation. It is recommended that preparation of formulas be supervised by the obstetric or pediatric supervisor or qualified dietitian.

H 29.53 Preparation of formula. Small institutions may use the diet kitchen for preparation of formulas provided the room is not used for other purposes during the preparation of formulas and no one is allowed in the room except those assigned to this duty.

H 29.54 Formula room restrictions. Persons caring for septic cases shall not be assigned to formula room.

H 29.55 Sterilizing—bottles and nipples. Bottles and nipples from sick or suspect cases shall be sterilized before being returned to formula room.

H 29.56 Wearing apparel—formula preparation. Persons who prepare formulas shall wear a clean cap and gown or apron.

H 29.57 Terminal sterilization of formula. Terminal sterilization of all formulas and water shall be accomplished by one of the following methods:

- (1) A minimum steam pressure of 7½ pounds for 10 minutes.
- (2) In flowing steam at atmospheric pressure for 30 minutes.

H 29.58 Refrigeration of formula. Following terminal sterilization the formulas shall be removed from the sterilizer, allowed to cool at room temperature and placed in a refrigerator maintained at a temperature of 40°-50° F. until feeding time.