

# Initial response to primary postpartum haemorrhage (PPH)

## Resuscitation

**DRSABC** (as relevant to circumstances)

### Assessment

- Rate/volume of bleeding
- Lie flat, oxygen 15 L/minute, keep warm
- Continuous heart rate and SpO<sub>2</sub>, 15 minutely BP and temperature
- Ensure routine third stage oxytocic given
- 4Ts (tissue, tone, trauma, thrombin)

### Urgent bloods

- FBC, Full chemistry profile (Chem20), coagulation profile, blood gas,
- X-match if none current with laboratory
- ROTEM®/TEG® if available
- POC pathology (iSTAT, Hemocue) if no onsite laboratory

### Initial fluid resuscitation

 (use warmed IV fluids/warming devices)

- IV cannula (x 2) 14–16G (consider intraosseous if unattainable)
- Avoid crystalloid IV > 1–2 L
- Limit synthetic colloid use (if used then < 1.5 L)
- IDC—monitor output and maintain accurate fluid balance
- If indicated, 2 units of RBC (O negative or group specific)

### Tranexamic acid

 1 g IV over 10 minutes,

- Consider early administration (within 3 hours)

**RSQ 1300 799 127** contact early (as relevant to service)

## Surgical procedures

### Coagulopathy may influence surgical decisions

- Consider future fertility if possible

### Tissue

- Manual removal + curettage

### Tone

- Intrauterine balloon tamponade
- Laparotomy:
  - Interim aortic compression
  - B-Lynch compression suture
  - Bilateral uterine artery ligation
  - Angiographic embolisation
  - Hysterectomy (consider early)

### Trauma

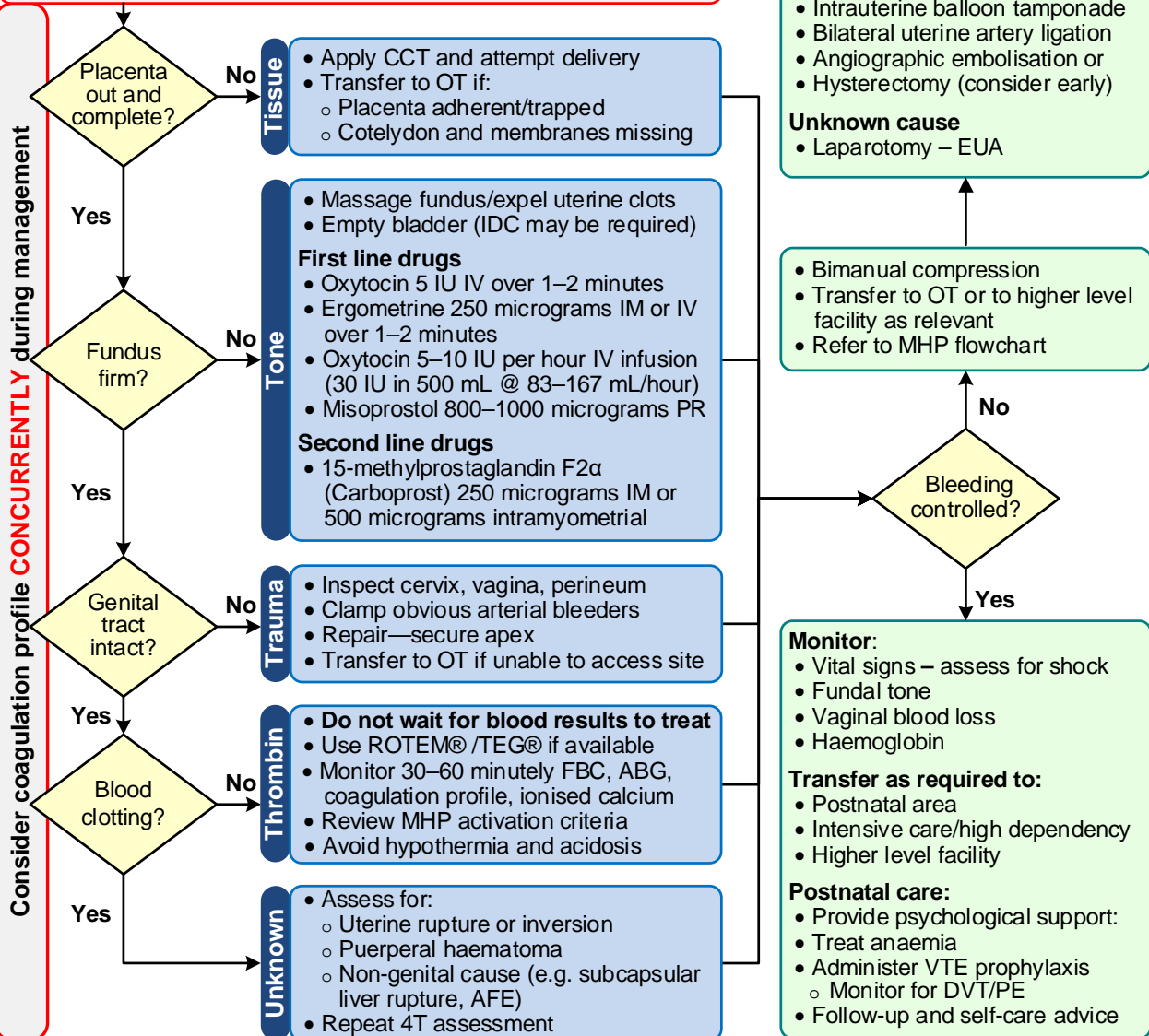
- Optimise exposure with retractors
- Inspect cervix, vagina, perineum
- Assess uterus intact
- Repair – secure apex

### Thrombin

- Intrauterine balloon tamponade
- Bilateral uterine artery ligation
- Angiographic embolisation or
- Hysterectomy (consider early)

### Unknown cause

- Laparotomy – EUA



Queensland Clinical Guidelines: Primary postpartum haemorrhage. Flowchart version: F18.1-1-V5-R23

**ABG:** arterial blood gas, **AFE:** amniotic fluid embolism, **BP:** blood pressure, **CCT** controlled cord traction, **DRSABC:** standard emergency procedure Danger-Response-Send for help-Airway-Breathing-Circulation, **DVT:** deep vein thrombosis, **EUA:** examination under anaesthetic, **FBC:** full blood count, **FFP:** fresh frozen plasma, **IDC:** indwelling catheter, **IV:** intravenous **MHP:** massive haemorrhage protocol, **OT:** operating theatre, **PE:** pulmonary embolism, **POC:** point of care, **RBC:** red blood cells, **ROTEM®/TEG®:** types of blood clotting analysers, **RSQ:** Retrieval Services Queensland, **SpO<sub>2</sub>:** saturation of oxygen, **VTE:** venous thromboembolism, <: less than, >: greater than

