INTERIM SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR WELL-CHILD VISITS¹



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PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR LOW-RISK PRENATAL VISITS

- Pregnant women still require antenatal visits. Given that there is a need to reduce number of visits and women themselves might wish to reduce exposure to others, the timing and frequency of prenatal visits can be adjusted. Ideally, in-person prenatal visits would coincide with ultrasounds and/or blood work.
- Prior to attending appointment, patients should be called to screen for COVID-19. If patient is at-risk for COVID-19, please see separate hospital policy on how to proceed.
- For <u>low-risk pregnancies</u>, it is acceptable to adjust the prenatal visit to align with the WHO Antenatal Care Model (2016), SOGC COVID-19 guidelines, Interim Nova Scotia Guidelines, and American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology MFM Guidance for COVID-19.
- In lieu of dopplers, perception of fetal movements >24 weeks can be used as a surrogate for fetal viability when appropriate.
- For BP: review clinical signs/symptoms of preeclampsia. If needed, instruct patient to measure BP at local pharmacy/home. Maternal weight will be self-reported.
- Post-partum visits can be done virtually.
- At each visit, a responsible care provider must assess each woman to determine whether she is a candidate for an adjusted prenatal visit schedule as well as virtual care.



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FOOTNOTES & REFERENCES

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR WELL-CHILD VISITS

- 1. If well-child visits are converted to virtual appointments, questionnaires such as the Rourke Baby Record and Nipissing District Developmental Screen can be emailed to parents prior to the appointment.
- 2. The neonatal period is a critical time to assess weight, feeding issues, and jaundice and therefore should be an inperson assessment.
- 3. The 1-month visit does not require immunizations and therefore can be converted to a virtual visit.
- 4. If possible, an in-person assessment with vaccinations should take place. Some providers have chosen to only proceed with the 2 month visit and vaccines (and postpone the 4 and 6 month visits and vaccines). Some providers have also suggested distributing vaccines to parents to administer at home, however this needs to be weighed against potential risks such as parental discomfort and anaphylaxis.
- 5. The 9 month visit according to the Rourke schedule is optional and does not require immunizations and therefore should be converted to a virtual visit.
- 6. If possible, the 12-month visit would be an in-person assessment with vaccinations as this visit incorporates the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine and is an important vaccination given recent outbreaks of measles.
- 7. If possible, the 15-month visit would be an in-person assessment with vaccinations, as this visit incorporates the varicella vaccine. This needs to be weighed against the risk of coming into the clinic and potential exposure.
- 8. The 18 month visit can be in-person or virtual. The virtual visit would be a surrogate for an in-person developmental assessment. Developmental questionnaires can be sent to parents prior to the appointment. Pediacel can also be delayed.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR LOW-RISK PRENATAL VISITS

- 1.Can combine dating/NT to one ultrasound. There is a potential risk of being outside the window period for measuring NT if inaccurate dating by 'Last Normal Menstrual Period.' Earlier ultrasounds might also be needed for threatened abortion or if risk factors for an ectopic pregnancy etc. If completing initial prenatal blood work and a dating ultrasound prior to the first prenatal visit, this can be organized virtually over the telephone.
- 2. For GCT, write on the requisition to allow the patient to wait in a car or in a private room in the clinic.
- 3. Can consider instructing patient on self-symphysis fundal height (SFH) measurement:

a.youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLse4MV0J4M

4. If the 36-week visit is not in person, consider coordinating with the lab for the patient to drop off a GBS self-swab if possible.

a. Instructions to provide patient: https://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/downloads/gbs_swab_sheet21.pdf

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