



CLINICAL POLICY

Acknowledgement of Paternity

A. EFFECTIVE DATE:

11/13/2020

B. PURPOSE:

For compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes Section 17b-27, implementation of the Acknowledgment of Paternity Program.

C. POLICY:

1. In compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes Section 17b-27, implementation of the Acknowledgment of Paternity Program will occur after an infant delivery at John Dempsey Hospital (JDH) prior to the mother's discharge or up to 10 business days thereafter.
2. The Acknowledgment of Paternity Program is a voluntary program to be offered to unwed parents who deliver their infant(s) at JDH.
3. Information regarding the program as well as the Acknowledgment of Paternity form (VS - 56, Rev. 01/15) will be available on the OB/GYN unit. The Division of Clinical Social Work will be available to parents for counseling and information.
4. For the Acknowledgment of Paternity to be valid, both the mother AND the father of the infant(s) must complete the Acknowledgment of Paternity form and the form must be notarized.
5. If the Acknowledgment of Paternity is not completed prior to the patient's discharge, arrangements for an appointment with the HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff, should be scheduled within 10 business days after the patient's discharge.
6. If the Acknowledgement of Paternity is not completed with UConn Health, the parents will be provided contact information for the designated Department of Social Services Liaison.

D. SCOPE:

This policy applies to the Labor & Delivery unit, Maternity unit and Health Information Management department.

E. DEFINITIONS:

1. Paternity – the legal identification of the father of a child.

F. MATERIAL(S) NEEDED:

Form VS-56 (Rev. 01/15)

PROCEDURE:

1. Following the birth of a child to unwed parents, the mother and father will be given information (Connecticut Department of Social Services Publications No. 95-18 and 95-19, Spanish versions No.95-18S and 95-19S) and the Acknowledgment of Paternity form by the RN caring for the mother on the OB/GYN unit. Each parent will be given written and oral notice of their rights and responsibilities including rescission, prior to the signing and notarization of the form.
2. The mother and identified father shall be given the opportunity to speak with staff in the Division of Clinical Social Work. The staff will be able to clarify information and answer questions about paternity establishment.
3. In the event the mother and the identified father express understanding of all information regarding the program, do not request counseling regarding the program or have received counseling, and choose to participate in the program, the Acknowledgment of Paternity form will be completed by the parents, reviewed by the notary public on the HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff to insure correct completion. The mother's and identified father's signatures will be witnessed by a notary public.
 - a. Acknowledgement of Paternity forms should never leave the hospital's jurisdiction.
4. If either parent has questions about the Acknowledgment of Paternity form or requests counseling regarding the psycho-social aspects of the program, the parents are to be referred to the Social Work Department at 679-2287. If it is determined by the parents or by the staff that legal guidance is needed, social work will make an appropriate community referral.
5. Information from the completed Acknowledgment of Paternity form is sent electronically to the Department of Public Health via Conn VRS with the birth certificate information by the hospital's birth registrar whom then forwards the white hard copy to:

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Vital Records Section – Paternity Registry
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#11VRS
PO Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

The mother will retain the pink copy. The identified father will retain the gold copy. The hospital will retain the yellow copy.

6. Parents returning to the hospital within 10 business days after mother 's discharge , in order to complete the acknowledgment form and establish paternity, will be assisted by HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff even if the birth certificate information has already been transmitted via ConnVRS to the DPH. The HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff will then forward the completed forms to DPH.
7. Parents of infants transferred to the UConn Health campus after birth but prior to completion of the acknowledgement form whom seek to establish paternity, will be assisted by HIM Birth Registry or OB/GYN Hospital Unit Clerk (HUC) staff. No information is transmitted via ConnVRS to the DPH. The white copy will be mailed to DPH, the pink copy is given to mother, gold the copy is given to father, and the hospital retains the yellow copy.

8. Parents unable to complete the Acknowledgement of Paternity with UConn Health are referred to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

G. ATTACHMENTS:

None

H. REFERENCES:

CSG Section 17b-27

I. SEARCH WORDS:

Acknowledgement, Paternity, AOP

J. ENFORCEMENT:

Violations of this policy or associated procedures may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, the University of Connecticut Student Code, other applicable University Policies, or as outlined in any procedures document related to this policy.

K. STAKEHOLDER APPROVALS :

On File

L. COMMITTEE APPROVALS :

None

M. FINAL APPROVAL :

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| <p>1. <u>Andrew Agwunobi, MD (Signed)</u>
Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA
UConn Health Chief Executive Officer</p> | <p><u>11/16/2020</u>
Date</p> |
| <p>2. <u>Anne D. Horbatuck (Signed)</u>
Anne D. Horbatuck, RN, BSN, MBA
Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair</p> | <p><u>11/12/2020</u>
Date</p> |
| <p>3. <u>Scott Allen, MD (Signed)</u>
Scott Allen, MD
Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair</p> | <p><u>11/16/2020</u>
Date</p> |
| <p>4. <u>Caryl Ryan, (Signed)</u>
Caryl Ryan, MS, RN
VP Quality and Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer</p> | <p><u>11/16/2020</u>
Date</p> |

N. REVISION HISTORY:

Date Created: 3/96

Date Reviewed: 6/99, 7/99, 2/00, 8/05

Date Revised: 9/99, 7/01, 2/03, 3/03, 7/13, 12/17, 11/20