



## Birthing Pool Infection Control Policy

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<b>Contact for Review:</b> Dr D Partridge, Mr D Boardman				

## Associated Documentation

Nil

## Trust Controlled Documents

Water Quality Policy

## External Documentation

Nil

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## Version history

Version	Date Issued	Brief Summary of change	Owner's Name:
1	5.3.2010	Updated and separated from Part 3 of the Control and Management of Legionella Policy	Dr E McLellan Mr M Wareing Mrs J Linskill
2	20/02/2013	Reduced recommended duration of flushing in line with the Trust's updated Flushing Policy	Dr E McLellan Mr M Wareing
3	09/06/2017	Change in cleaning guidance avoiding Chlorclean due to its role in damaging pipework. Insertion of section on training of pool users	Dr D Partridge Mr D Boardman

## Document Imprint

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## Executive Summary

### Birthing Pool Infection Control Guidelines

<b>Document Objectives:</b>	To inform staff of the Infection Prevention and Control requirements for the use of birthing pools. To enable staff to fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the safe use of birthing pools to reduce the risk of infection.
<b>Group/Persons Consulted:</b>	Estates, Infection Prevention and Control Team, Water Quality Steering Group, Midwives responsible for the use of the pools
<b>Monitoring Arrangements and Indicators:</b>	Monitoring will take place by the Estates Department and by the midwives responsible for the use of the pool. Monitoring will also take place via the Trust IPC Accreditation Scheme and by Ward/ Department Managers via documentation of cleaning and maintenance schedules.
<b>Training Implications:</b>	The ward manager will provide training in the cleaning of the birthing pool.
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	An initial Equality Impact Assessment undertaken – no negative impacts requiring action identified
<b>Resource Implications:</b>	Nil
<b>Intended Recipients:</b>	Clinical and Estates staff using and/or maintaining birthing pools at STH.
<b>Who should:-</b>	
➤ <b>be aware of the document and where to access it</b>	All staff involved in obstetric care
➤ <b>understand the document</b>	Clinical and Estates staff using and/or maintaining birthing pools at STH. Infection Prevention and Control staff
➤ <b>have a good working knowledge of the document</b>	Clinical and Estates staff using and/or maintaining birthing pools at STH.

## Birthing Pool Infection Control Guidelines

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## 1. Training

- **All midwives and support workers working in the midwife led unit will have access to the infection control policy.**
- **Midwives responsible for this area will ensure all staff, whether registered and non-registered, who are working the birthing pool are familiar with the policy and the procedure for cleaning**

## 2. Flushing

- A member of the midwifery team must ensure that the taps are run for two minutes on a daily basis and before each use of the pool. Tap flushing is required to reduce the risk of microbial contaminants in the water used to fill the pool.
- Outlets should be run at a maximum flow rate and hot taps must be run at their hottest setting without over-riding any pre-set controls.
- Flushing must be recorded on the flushing log wall chart (see [Appendix 1](#)). This chart can be downloaded from the Estates Directorate website by clicking on “Electronic Forms” and selecting “Legionella Flushing Data Sheet.”
- The completed flushing charts must be kept by the midwife responsible for the birthing pools for a period of **5 years** from the date of the last entry on the sheet. The log sheet will be subject to annual external audit to determine compliance.
- The midwife responsible for the birthing pools must ensure that a summary of flushing activity is completed each month and that this summary is returned to the Estates Department annually (see [Appendix 2](#)).

## 3. Cleaning

- **Instructions for cleaning should be present at the side of each pool.**
- The pool must be cleaned both before and after patient use, following the procedure stated below.
- It is the midwife’s responsibility to ensure that the pool is cleaned and that this process is recorded on the cleaning log wall chart (see [Appendix 3](#)).
- The completed cleaning charts must be kept by the midwife responsible for the birthing pools for a period of **5 years** from the date of the last entry on the sheet.
- The pool thermometer and plug must be cleaned, sterilised and dried completely before and after each use.

### **Cleaning procedure – before use of pool**

#### Equipment required

- Single use disposable sieve
- Hospec Detergent Sanitizer
- General Purpose Detergent
- Designated bucket
- Thermometer
- Plug
- Single use disposable cleaning cloths
- Long gloves

1. Run the water for two minutes from both taps. Outlets should be run at a maximum flow rate and hot taps must be run at their hottest setting without over-riding any pre-set controls. Flushing must be recorded on the flushing log wall chart (see [Appendix 1](#)).
2. Clean the pool, plug and the taps thoroughly using hot water, General Purpose Detergent and a disposable cloth.
3. Wipe the pool using a 10% solution (100g of powder mixed with one litre of warm water) of Hospec Detergent Sanitizer and a clean disposable cloth. Leave this solution in contact with the pool for 5 minutes.
4. Rinse the pool with Milton sterilising fluid (500mls Milton diluted in 5 litres water). Leave the Milton in contact with the pool for 20 mins
5. Rinse the pool thoroughly using tap water and the designated bucket.
6. Dry the pool using a clean disposable cloth.
7. Clean the thermometer with General Purpose Detergent in cool water.
8. Rinse and dry with a disposable cloth.
9. Disinfect the thermometer and plug in Milton Solution for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, remove the thermometer and plug from the Milton solution and leave to dry. Once dry, store in plastic container provided.
10. Dispose of all used cloths as household waste.
11. Fill the pool.
12. Check the water temperature before use. This should be maintained at 36-37°C.

#### **Cleaning procedure – after use of pool**

Once the pool has been vacated, the attendant midwife is responsible for ensuring correct emptying and cleaning of the pool but may delegate the cleaning duties to a health care assistant.

1. Collect debris in the disposable sieve, and discard into the offensive waste stream.
2. Drain the water from the pool.
3. Thoroughly rinse the pool using tap water and the designated bucket.
4. Clean the pool, plug and the taps thoroughly using hot water, General Purpose Detergent and a disposable cloth.
5. Clean the pool using a 10% solution (100g of powder mixed with one litre of warm water) of Hospec Detergent Sanitizer and a clean disposable cloth. Leave this solution in contact with the pool for 5 minutes.
6. Thoroughly disinfect the pool with Milton sterilising fluid (500mls Milton diluted in 5 litres water). Milton to be left on for 20 mins.
7. Rinse the pool thoroughly using tap water and the designated bucket.
8. Dry the pool using a clean disposable cloth.
9. Clean the thermometer with General Purpose Detergent in cool water.
10. Rinse and dry with a disposable cloth.
11. Disinfect the thermometer and plug in Milton Solution for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, remove the thermometer and plug from the Milton solution and leave to dry. Once dry, store in plastic container provided. Ensure that the thermometer is completely dry before storage.
12. Dispose of all used cloths as household waste.

#### **4. Documentation**

It is the responsibility of the attendant midwife to ensure that pool cleaning and tap flushing is documented on the relevant wall charts (see Appendices).

The completed flushing and cleaning charts must be kept by the midwife responsible for the birthing pools for a period of **5 years** from the date of the last entry on the sheet.

The midwife responsible for the birthing pools must ensure that a summary of flushing activity is completed each month and that this summary is returned to the Estates Department annually (see [Appendix 2](#)).

## **5. Water Sampling**

Water should be sampled from each of the pools on a six monthly basis to allow microbiological testing for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Samples should be taken in line with [The Control and Management of Water Quality and Ventilation Systems. Section 2 - Procedural document](#)

Positive results from water sampling shall be relayed to and managed by the Estates directorate in conjunction with the Infection Control lead for water or an alternative consultant microbiologist and the midwifery team.

## **6. Temporary Birthing Pools**

Under no circumstances are temporary birthing pools to be used due to the lack of acceptable controls and the risk of *Legionella* or other contamination.