Attachment 1: Labor and Delivery Unit Policy for the Use and Cleaning of Bath/Whirlpool During Labor

**Purpose:**
To describe guidelines for use of the bathtub in the labor and delivery unit.

**Supportive Data:**
Use of a bath during labor is intended to facilitate relaxation and/or pain management in uncomplicated pregnancies.

**Contraindications:**
The following criteria will exclude use of the tub:
1. High risk pregnancy factors

**Guidelines for Use:**
1. Adjust water temperature to comfort level.
2. Only, the patient is allowed in tub
3. Patient gown may be worn if woman desires clothing.
4. Cover IV site and tape with plastic to keep dry.
5. Have patient stand, or sit on side of tub for fetal monitoring with doppler or use telemetry external fetal monitoring (EFM)
6. Patient may stay in tub throughout first stage of labor, even with ruptured membranes until the time of delivery.
7. Physician orders must be written for:
   - Intermittent fetal monitoring and/or telemetry EFM

**Safety:**
1. If patient has temperature elevation of >37.8 degrees, she should not be in the tub.
2. Return patient to bed before pushing or delivery.
3. **NEVER USE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WITH PATIENT IN WATER**

**Documentation:**
Use of tub and patient response should be documented in EMR.
**Whirlpool Cleaning Procedure:**

Because the water and the tub surfaces become contaminated with the mother’s skin flora and blood during labor and delivery, whirlpool/jacuzzis need to be drained after each patient and the surfaces thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. The whirlpool/jacuzzis should also be cleaned prior to use if it has not been cleaned within the last 24 hours.

**Procedure:**

**Tub Cleaning:** Environmental services will perform tub cleaning upon patient discharge in the following manner:

1. Abrasive cleaners should not be used on the tub
2. Strain any particulate matter and discard in toilet
3. Clean all inside tub surfaces including agitator, faucet, drain, and trim with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant
4. Rinse all inside tub surfaces with clean water

**Flushing the whirlpool:** Nurse will flush whirlpool before and after patient use

1. Keep door to hallway closed minimize fumes leaking into hallway
2. Don PPE: gloves and eyewear (eye goggles OR eyeglasses and face shield)
3. Adjust the jets fully clockwise (closed) so there is no air introduction into them
4. Fill the bath with warm water from faucet to a level of 2 inches above the highest jets
5. Add 20 ounces (600cc) of undiluted chlorine bleach and 2 teaspoons of low-foaming powdered dishwasher detergent to the warm water
6. Turn on the jets and run whirlpool for 10 minutes, drain
7. Refill the tub with water to a level of 2 inches above the highest jets and turn the whirlpool on for another 10 minutes, drain
8. Dry inside tub surfaces with clean towels and keep the tub dry until it is to be used again