

Nursing Care during Labor and Birth

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Analyze issues that may face the new nurse who cares for women during the intrapartum period.
2. Explain teaching guidelines for going to the hospital or birth center.
3. Describe admission and continuing intrapartum nursing assessments.
4. Describe common nursing procedures used when caring for women during the intrapartum period.
5. Identify nursing priorities when assisting the woman to give birth under emergency circumstances.
6. Relate therapeutic communication skills to care of the intrapartum woman and her significant others.
7. Apply the nursing process to care of the woman experiencing false or early labor.
8. Apply the nursing process to care of the woman and her significant others during the intrapartum period.

Go to your Student CD-ROM for Review Questions keyed to these Objectives.



DEFINITIONS

Abortion A pregnancy that ends before 20 weeks' gestation, either spontaneously (miscarriage) or electively. *Miscarriage* is a lay term for spontaneous abortion that is being more frequently used by health professionals.

Amniotomy Artificial rupture of the membranes (amniotic sac).

Caput Succedaneum Area of edema over the presenting part of the fetus or newborn that results from pressure against the cervix (usually called *caput*).

Crowning Appearance of the fetal scalp or presenting part at the vaginal opening.

EDD Abbreviation for *estimated date of delivery*; also may be abbreviated *EDB* (estimated date of birth).

Episiotomy Incision of the perineum to enlarge the vaginal opening.

Ferning Microscopic appearance of amniotic fluid resembling fern leaves when the fluid is allowed to dry on a microscope slide; also called *fern test*.

Gravida A pregnant woman; also refers to a woman's total number of pregnancies, including the one in progress, if applicable.

Multipara A woman who has given birth after two or more pregnancies of at least 20 weeks' gestation; also informally used to describe a pregnant woman before the birth of her second child.

Nitrazine Paper Paper used to test pH; helps determine whether the amniotic sac has ruptured.

Nuchal Cord Umbilical cord around the fetal neck.

Nullipara A woman who has not completed a pregnancy to at least 20 weeks' gestation.

Para A woman who has given birth after a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks' gestation; also designates the number of a woman's pregnancies that have ended after at least 20 weeks' gestation. (A multifetal gestation, such as twins, is considered one birth when calculating parity.)

Primipara A woman who has given birth after a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks' gestation; also used informally to describe a pregnant woman before the birth of her first child.

Nursing Care During The Labor Process

Annelies Wilder-Smith



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Table of Contents Nursing Care During The Labor Process

1. Understanding the eBook Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Nursing Care During The Labor Process User Reviews and Ratings
 - Nursing Care During The Labor Process and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Nursing Care During The Labor Process Free and Paid eBooks

- Nursing Care During The Labor Process Public Domain eBooks
- Nursing Care During The Labor Process eBook Subscription Services
- Nursing Care During The Labor Process Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Nursing Care During The Labor Process eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Nursing Care During The Labor Process Compatibility with Devices
 - Nursing Care During The Labor Process Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Interactive Elements Nursing Care During The Labor Process
- 8. Staying Engaged with Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Nursing Care During The Labor Process
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Nursing Care During The Labor Process
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Setting Reading Goals Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Nursing Care During The Labor Process
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development

- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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