



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFFER ALBATIN HEALTH  
CLUSTER  
MATERNITY AND  
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

|                          |   |                         |                  |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Department:</b>       | Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)        |                         |                  |
| <b>Document:</b>         | Departmental Policy and Procedure           |                         |                  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | Abdominal Paracentesis in Pediatric Patient |                         |                  |
| <b>Applies To:</b>       | All Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Staff     |                         |                  |
| <b>Preparation Date:</b> | January 12, 2025                            | <b>Index No:</b>        | PICU-DPP-017     |
| <b>Approval Date:</b>    | January 26, 2025                            | <b>Version :</b>        | 2                |
| <b>Effective Date:</b>   | February 26, 2025                           | <b>Replacement No.:</b> | PICU-DPP-017 (1) |
| <b>Review Date:</b>      | February 26, 2028                           | <b>No. of Pages:</b>    | 2                |

## 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To obtain a specimen of abdominal fluid for diagnostic purposes.
- 1.2 To relieve intra-abdominal pressure.
- 1.3 To introduce medication into the peritoneal cavity e.g. cytotoxic therapy for malignant disease.

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Abdominal Paracentesis** – is the removal of fluid from the peritoneal cavity through a sterile cannula or needle. Sometimes medication may be introduced into the peritoneal cavity by the same route.

## 3. POLICY:

- 3.1 To be performed by a physician assisted by a nurse under strict aseptic technique.
- 3.2 Consent must be signed by parents.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

### 4.1 Preparatory Phase:

- 4.1.1 Explain the procedure to the patient.
- 4.1.2 Record the patient's vital signs.
- 4.1.3 Have the patient void before treatment will begin. Make sure that consent form has been signed.
- 4.1.4 Position patient in Fowler's position with his back, arms, and feet supported.
- 4.1.5 Drape patient with sheet exposing abdomen.

### 4.2 Performance Phase:

- 4.2.1 Assist in preparing skin with antiseptic solution.
- 4.2.2 Open sterile tray and package of sterile gloves; provide anesthetic solution.
- 4.2.3 Make sure that collection bottle and tubing is available.
- 4.2.4 Assess pulse and respiratory status frequently during procedure; watch for pallor, cyanosis or syncope (faintness).
- 4.2.5 Physician administers local anesthesia and introduces needle or trocar.
- 4.2.6 Needle or trocar is connected to tubing and vacuum bottle or syringe; fluid is slowly drained from peritoneal cavity.
- 4.2.7 Apply dressing when needle is withdrawn.
- 4.2.8 Usually a dressing is sufficient; however, if the trocar wound appears large, the physician may close the incision with sutures.

### 4.3 Follow – up Phase:

- 4.3.1 Assist patient to a comfortable position after treatment.
- 4.3.2 Record amount and characteristics of fluid removed, number of specimens sent to laboratory, and patient's condition during treatment.
- 4.3.3 Check blood pressure and vital signs every 1/2 hour for 2 hours, every hour for 4 hours and every 4 hours for 24 hours.

4.3.4 Watch for leakage or scrotal edema after paracentesis.  
 4.3.5 Documentation of procedure.

## 5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Ultrasound Machine
- 5.2 Gauge 24 or 25 Catheter over a Needle (e.g. Angiocath)
- 5.3 5ml or 10ml Syringe
- 5.4 Skin Topical Disinfectant
- 5.5 Sterile Towels
- 5.6 Tubes for Culture, Gram Stain and Cell Count
- 5.7 Tuberculin Syringe
- 5.8 Lidocaine (1%) Injection

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Physician
- 6.2 Nurses

## 7. APPENDICES:

N/A

## 8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Health Baish General Hospital, 2018.

## 9. APPROVAL:

|              | Name                          | Title                       | Signature   | Date             |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|
| Prepared by: | Ms. Asma AlShammary           | Head Nurse of PICU          |  | January 12, 2025 |
| Prepared by: | Dr. Eman Abdelhakim Amer      | Pediatric Specialist        |  | January 12, 2025 |
| Reviewed by: | Mr. Sabah Turayhib Al Harbi   | Director of Nursing         |  | January 13, 2025 |
| Reviewed by: | Dr. Ali Alfayez               | PICU Head of the Department |  | January 13, 2025 |
| Reviewed by: | Mr. Abdulelah Ayed Al Mutairi | QM&PS Director              |  | January 17, 2025 |
| Reviewed by: | Dr. Tamer Mohamed Naguib      | Medical Director            |  | January 19, 2025 |
| Approved by: | Mr. Fahad Hazam Al Shammari   | Hospital Director           |  | January 26, 2025 |