Labor & Delivery: Clinical Experience Summary

Benjamin Ruettiger

Lakeview College of Nursing

N432: Maternal-Newborn Medicine

Zoe Due

July 4, 2025

Labor & Delivery: Clinical Experience Summary

1. ***What is the priority nursing diagnosis for your patient? Why did you choose this diagnosis? (5 points)***

The priority nursing diagnosis for my patient on the Labor & Delivery unit is: Risk for tachysystole related to oxytocin administration as evidenced by uterine contractions lasting longer than two minutes (Phelps, 2023). This nursing diagnosis was selected because oxytocin, a high-alert medication used to induce labor, carries a significant risk of uterine tachysystole—a form of uterine hyperstimulation—which can endanger both the mother and fetus (Durham et al., 2023). Due to this risk, oxytocin requires dual sign-off during administration. A tocodynamometer monitors labor progression closely, allowing clinicians to titrate the oxytocin dosage to achieve effective contractions and cervical dilation while minimizing complications (Durham et al., 2023).

Continuously monitoring uterine activity and fetal heart rate is essential to identify early signs of tachysystole and ensure timely intervention. Given that the patient is a healthy G3P3 with no notable medical, social, or obstetric history, this diagnosis is prioritized due to the induction process and the associated potential risks of oxytocin use.

2. ***Identify three nursing interventions supporting the nursing diagnosis. Explain what these interventions are and why they should be completed. (15 points)***

    a. Monitor uterine contraction frequency, duration, and intensity at least every 15 minutes while oxytocin runs (Durham et al., 2023).

    b. Use the lowest dose of oxytocin possible to achieve adequate progress of labor (Durham et al., 2023).

      c.   Decrease the dose or discontinue the administration of oxytocin if tachysystole occurs (Durham et al., 2023).

These interventions are essential nursing responsibilities during an oxytocin infusion to promote the safe progression of labor and to recognize early signs of uterine hyperstimulation (Durham et al., 2023). They emphasize the critical importance of vigilant monitoring during medication titration to ensure optimal maternal and fetal outcomes in the event of tachysystole. Monitoring uterine activity every 15 minutes during the first stage of labor while oxytocin is infusing enables early identification of excessive uterine activity. It supports timely intervention to prevent uteroplacental insufficiency and potential fetal compromise (Durham et al., 2023). Administering the lowest effective dose of oxytocin helps minimize the risk of tachysystole while still facilitating labor progression (Durham et al., 2023). Additionally, reducing the oxytocin dose by half within 10–15 minutes of excessive uterine activity—and discontinuing the infusion entirely if tachysystole persists—can significantly decrease the likelihood of fetal distress and other labor-related complications (Durham et al., 2023).

3.   ***What was the evaluation of each of the previously identified nursing interventions? (10 points)***

To evaluate the effectiveness of monitoring uterine activity every 15 minutes during an oxytocin infusion, uterine contractions should remain within normal parameters, with adequate rest periods between contractions and no evidence of tachysystole or fetal distress (Durham et al., 2023). The effectiveness of administering the lowest possible oxytocin dose can be assessed by observing steady labor progression with effective uterine contractions, without signs of uterine hyperstimulation or fetal compromise (Durham et al., 2023). Lastly, the effectiveness of

decreasing or discontinuing oxytocin in response to tachysystole can be evaluated by the return of the fetal heart rate to baseline and normalization of contraction frequency, intensity, and duration (Durham et al., 2023)

.

4. ***Describe this patient's culture and identify at least two patient preferences relating to their culture. (10 points)***

This patient identifies with a middle-class American culture that values evidence-based healthcare, personal autonomy, and family-centered decision-making throughout childbirth and postpartum care. She has experienced two previous labor inductions, both resulting in the uncomplicated delivery of healthy infants. These experiences have contributed to her comfort with the induction process and informed her expectations for the current birth experience. The patient and her partner are actively involved in her care planning, and clear, collaborative communication has guided discussions regarding her induction.

One culturally influenced preference is the use of pain management tailored to her comfort level. The patient received epidurals during both previous inductions and expressed a desire to use one for this current laboring process. The patient verbalized a familiarity with the procedure and is confident in its effectiveness. This preference reflects her cultural emphasis on autonomy and evidence-based interventions, which are commonly valued in middle-class American families during labor and delivery.

A second preference is having her partner present throughout labor and delivery. As a supportive figure and joint decision-maker in their children's healthcare, his presence provides emotional reassurance and reinforces their shared approach to care. This preference for support

in the delivery room aligns with the cultural norm of family involvement and shared responsibility, which is prevalent in middle-class American households.

5. *Reflection of clinical experience. (5 points)*
   a. *What was one thing that put you outside your comfort zone?*
   b. *In what way did you see coordination between the health care team to provide appropriate care to the patient?*

I was outside of my comfort zone when the patient arrived for her scheduled induction because I was unable to answer some of her questions regarding her treatment plan. As it was only my second clinical day in the labor and delivery unit, I did not yet have the knowledge or experience to provide accurate explanations. Fortunately, the nurse I was paired with was highly experienced and able to answer all of the patient's questions thoroughly, which helped me better understand how to respond to similar concerns in the future.

I observed excellent coordination between the healthcare team, which includes the nurse, healthcare tech, midwife, OB physicians, the patient, and their family members. After obtaining informed consent, initiating an IV, and drawing lab work per protocol, the nurse collaborated with the provider, who evaluated the patient and entered orders to begin the induction with uterotonic medication.

I deeply appreciated seeing the nursing team demonstrate strong teamwork and mutual respect despite multiple patients actively in labor. For example, I witnessed nurses, techs, and providers who responded to urgent situations, even when they were not assigned to those rooms, or an emergent patient was seen in triage. This culture and respect show how important it is to give laboring patients safe, timely, and high-quality care, and is something palpable about the

floor. I deeply appreciated the supportive and collaborative culture of the labor and delivery unit.

The way all team members—regardless of role—worked together to prioritize the well-being of

both mother and baby was inspiring and educational.

References

Durham, R. F., Chapman, L. & Miller, C. (2023). *Davis Advantage for Maternal-Newborn Nursing: Critical Components of Nursing Care* (4th ed., p. 343-590). F. A. Davis Company.

Phelps, L.L., (2023). *Nursing diagnosis reference manual.* (12th ed.). Wolters Kluwer

N432 Clinical Experience Summary Rubric

Name: Benjamin Ruettiger

Date: July 4th, 2025

Criteria	5 points	2.5 points	0 points	Comments
● What is the priority nursing diagnosis for your patient? ● Why did you choose this diagnosis?	**Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria:** ● What is the priority nursing diagnosis for your patient? ● Why did you choose this diagnosis?	**Missing 1 or inaccurate information of the following:** ● What is the priority nursing diagnosis for your patient? ● Why did you choose this diagnosis?	**Missing 2 or more or inaccurate information of the following:** ● What is the priority nursing diagnosis for your patient? ● Why did you choose this diagnosis?	
Criteria	**15 points**	**7.5 points**	**0 points**	**Comments**

	Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria:	Missing 1-2 or inaccurate information of the following:	Missing 3 or more or inaccurate information of the following:	
● Identify 3 nursing interventions that were completed during clinical. ● Describe each intervention. ● Explain why each intervention was completed.	● Identify 3 nursing interventions that were seen or done during clinical. ● Describe each intervention. ● Explain why each intervention was completed.	● Identify 3 nursing interventions that were seen or done during clinical. ● Describe each intervention. ● Explain why each intervention was completed.	● Identify 3 nursing interventions that were seen or done during clinical. ● Describe each intervention. ● Explain why each intervention was completed.	
Criteria	**10 points**	**5 points**	**0 points**	**Comments**
● Evaluation of each of the previously identified nursing interventions	Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria: ● Evaluation of each of the previously identified nursing interventions	Missing 1-2 or inaccurate information of the following: ● Evaluation of each of the previously identified nursing	Missing 2 or more or inaccurate information of the following: ● Evaluation of each of the previously identified nursing	

		interventions	interventions	

Criteria	10 points	5 points	0 points	Comments
● Describe this patient culture. ● Identify a minimum of 2 patient preferences that relate to their culture.	**Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria:** ● Describe this patient culture. ● Identify a minimum of 2 patient preferences relating to their culture.	**Missing 1 or inaccurate information of the following:** ● Describe this patient culture. ● Identify a minimum of 2 patient preferences relating to their culture.	**Missing 2 or more or inaccurate information of the following:** ● Describe this patient culture. ● Identify a minimum of 2 patient preferences relating to their culture.	

Criteria	5 points	2.5 points	0 points	Comments
● Reflection of clinical experience. o What was one thing that made you feel uncomfortable	**Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria:** ● Reflection of clinical experience.	**Missing 1 or inaccurate information of the following:** ● Reflection of clinical experience.	**Missing 2 or more or inaccurate information of the following:** ● Reflection of clinical experience.	

? o In what way did you see coordination between the health care team to provide appropriate care to the patient?	o What was one thing that made you feel uncomfortable? o In what way did you see coordination between the health care team to provide appropriate care to the patient?	o What was one thing that made you feel uncomfortable? o In what way did you see coordination between the health care team to provide appropriate care to the patient?	o What was one thing that made you feel uncomfortable? o In what way did you see coordination between the health care team to provide appropriate care to the patient?	
Criteria	**5 points**	**2.5 points**	**0 points**	
APA Format ● 2 page minimum ● The student used appropriate APA in text citations and listed all appropriate references in APA format. ● Source(s) utilized should be 5 or less	**Includes complete and accurate information on all criteria:** ● 2 page minimum. ● The student used appropriate APA in text citations and listed all appropriate references in APA format.	**Missing 1 or inaccurate information of the following:** ● 2 page minimum. ● The student used appropriate APA in text citations and listed all appropriate references in APA format. ● All sources utilized	**Missing 2 or more or inaccurate information of the following:** ● 2 page minimum. ● The student used appropriate APA in text citations and listed all appropriate references in APA format. ● All sources utilized	

years old. ● Source(s) greater than 5 years old will not be accepted. ● Professional writing style and grammar was used in all narrative sections.	● All sources utilized were 5 or less years old. ● Professional writing style and grammar was used in all narrative sections.	were 5 or less years old. ● Professional writing style and grammar was used in all narrative sections	were 5 or less years old. ● Professional writing style and grammar was used in all narrative sections	
Instructor Comments:				
			/50=	