

Section: Division of Nursing

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**\* PROCEDURE \***

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: R. Galdi, RN

Revised by: Catherine Burns BSN,RNC

Reviewed by: Dr. A Canova

**MATERNAL SERVICES**

(Scope)

**TITLE: EXTERNAL VERSION OF A BREECH FETUS**

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**PURPOSE:** To outline the procedure to assist the physician in turning a fetus from a breech position to a cephalic presentation prior to labor in order to facilitate a vaginal delivery in the gravid woman.

**SUPPORTIVE DATA:** Because the risk of an adverse event occurring as the result of external cephalic version (ECV) is small and the cesarean delivery rate is significantly lower among women who have undergone successful version, women near term with breech presentations may be offered a version attempt.

- EQUIPMENT:**
1. EFM/QS
  2. Bedside Ultrasound Machine
  3. Gloves (non-sterile)
  4. IV, if ordered by physician.
  5. Mineral Oil or Aqua Sonic Gel
  6. Tocolytic drug, as ordered by physician.

<b>CONTENT:</b>	<b>PROCEDURE STEPS</b>	<b>KEY POINTS</b>
	1. Patient needs to be in a bed in an L&D room.	Staff must be prepared for possible immediate cesarean birth. (C/S OR to be set up and OR team available)
	2. Assess vitals signs. Send urine to lab if ordered.	
	3. Place EFM for a baseline strip of 20 minutes.	Discuss with provider if NST nonreactive.
	4. Provider to obtain consent for version..	Ensure consent is on chart.
	5. Assist physician as needed.	
	6. Monitor patient as ordered by physician following the procedure.	NST should be reactive
	7. Rh-negative patients must be given Rh immunoglobulin as ordered by provider.	

**REFERENCES:**

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 2000, reaffirmed 2009, External Cephalic Version. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 13, Obstetrics and Gynecology, 95(2): 1-7.