

DELIVERY COMPLICATIONS

PROLAPSED CORD or NUCHAL CORD

	EMR	EMT	PM
1. Provide Adult Routine Medical Care - support life threatening problems with airway, breathing, and circulation.	•	•	•
2. If birth is not imminent, transport patient on her left side		•	•

PROLAPSED CORD: umbilical cord is visualized prior to delivery

3. Elevate mother's hips. Instruct patient to pant during contractions.	•	•
4. If the umbilical cord presents externally or can be visualized in the vagina, use two fingers of a gloved hand to prevent any presenting part of the delivering fetus from occluding/compressing the cord.	•	•
5. Pressure relieving maneuvers must be maintained throughout transport.	•	•
6. Monitor cord pulsations	•	•

NUCHAL CORD: cord wrapped around neck

3. Slip two fingers around the cord and lift over neonate's head, proceed with delivery.	•	•
4. If the loop is too tight to slip over the head, attempt to slip the cord over the shoulders and deliver the body through the loop	•	•
5. If unsuccessful, double-clamp cord, cut cord between clamps with sterile scissors to allow for release of cord from neck.	•	•
6. Proceed with delivery.	•	•

PEARLS:

1. Cover exposed cord with moist dressing and keep warm