## Post-operative care

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<th>NURSING INSTRUCTION</th>
<th>NURSING ACTION</th>
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| **1. OBSERVE FOR SIGNS OF SHOCK** (↓BP, tachycardia, pallor etc.) | - Place on ICU crib on patient monitor  
- Set alarms accurately  
- Set BP to record every 15 minutes or if arterial line present use invasive BP monitoring  
- Record observations hourly until stable or baby is removed from ventilator, then 2hrly x2, then 3hrly  
- Record and report any abnormality |
| **2. OBSERVE FOR AND MANAGE PAIN** | - Observe for restlessness, grimacing, crying, tachycardia, ↑BP  
- Ensure analgesia is ordered and administered as required  
- If epidural is in situ, monitor effectiveness and ensure correct dose and infusion rate is administered  
- Handle as little as possible. Nurse in quiet and darkened environment. Use “baby warmer” if available or “nesting” technique to provide comfort  
- Provide non-nutritive sucking with sucrose as a comfort and pain control measure if not contra-indicated |
| **3. MONITOR WOUND** | - Observe wound drainage for colour, amount and consistency  
- Observe for excessive bleeding. Monitor haemoglobin  
- Observe for any bruising  
- Monitor any changes in abdominal girth following abdominal surgery  
- Report any abnormality immediately to the surgeons  
- Consult stomatherapist for advice on stoma dressing. Change if loose / soiled or as ordered |
| **4. MAINTAIN TEMPERATURE** | - Ensure baby is nursed under a radiant warmer or in an incubator  
- Cover head with cap and cover baby with bubble plastic (not blanket) to aid visualization of wound  
- See Neonate Care Plan |
| **5. MONITOR FLUID BALANCE AND ELECTROLYTES** | - Monitor and replace any fluid output, e.g. wound drainage as ordered  
- Monitor urine output and SG  
- Monitor urea and electrolyte levels as ordered  
- Administer fluids as ordered |
| **6. SUPPORT AND REASSURE PARENTS** | - Explain baby’s condition carefully. Explain and discuss further management. Orientate parents to equipment and surroundings  
- Allow parents to express emotions freely  
- Allow parents to spend time alone with their baby |