Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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Correspondence

Intrapartum care of women with COVID-19: A practical approach

Dear Editor,

Obstetricians have steadily fought to improve outcomes for women over the past 3 decades, with the application of evidence-based medicine. The current COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed this standardized approach with a deluge of information, at times contradictory, leading to confusion in the labor ward regarding best practice. As community person-to-person transmission of the virus escalates, we will increasingly have to manage labor for COVID-19 positive patients. In this context, we have developed a comprehensive but concise information bulletin (Fig. 1), to allow all caregivers ease of access to the most up to date information. This is based on recommendations issued by the *International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology* [1], *Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists* [2], *Collège National des Gynécologues et Obstétriciens Français* [3], and *Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology* [4].

Most of the recommendations highlighted in our bulletin are similar between the international bodies: multidisciplinary approach; mode of delivery as usually indicated; close monitoring of maternal vital signs; continuous fetal heart monitoring; conservative fluid therapy; oxygen therapy as needed; early neuraxial anesthesia; elective instrumental delivery according to maternal condition; and stabilization of the critically ill patient by specialists followed by cesarean section and appropriate protective measures.

However some discrepancies can be found between recommendations regarding the presence of birth partner, delayed umbilical cord clamping, separation of mother and baby, and use of nitrous oxide analgesia systems. We have to keep in mind that our current knowledge on management of COVID-19 during pregnancy is based on small cohort studies, experience of similar viral

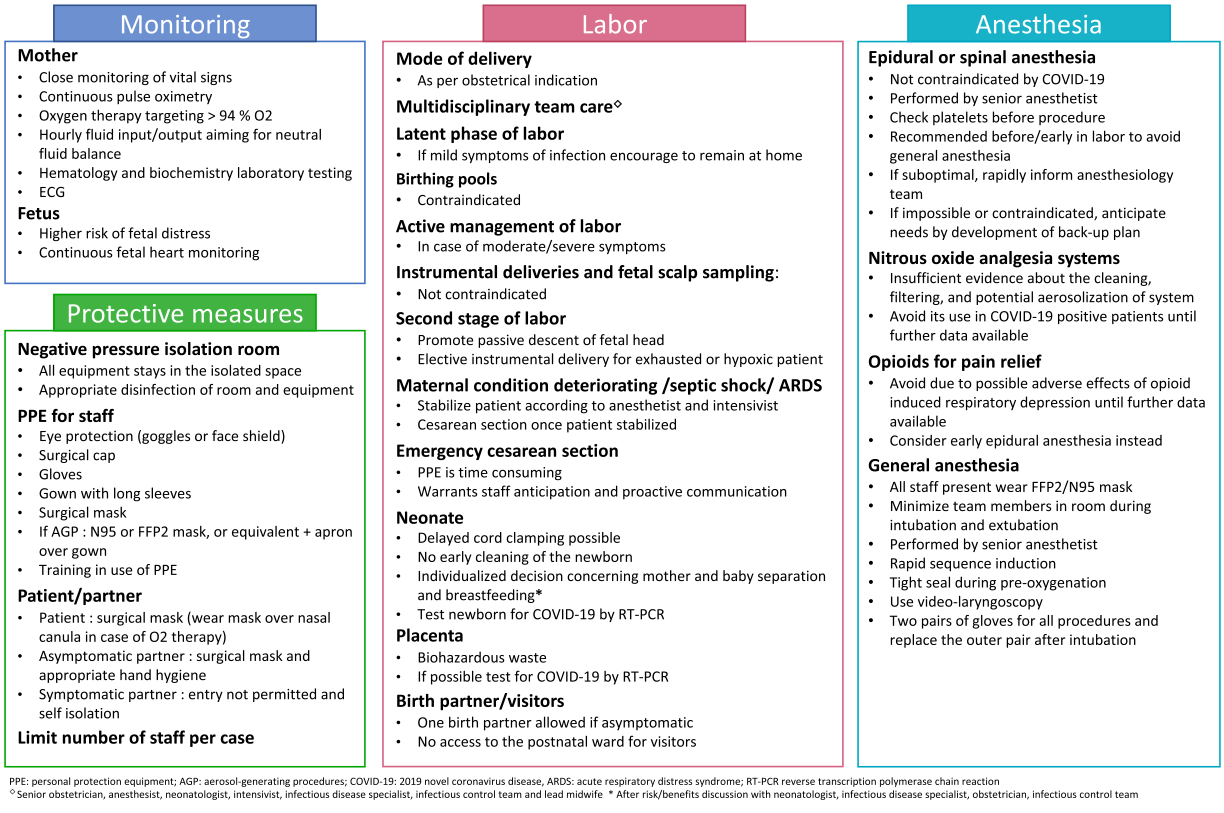

Fig. 1. Intrapartum care of women with COVID-19.

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pulmonary infections and expert consensus, which generate divergent recommendations. Thus, guidelines will no doubt be adapted as we gather clinical data and experience.

Despite these anticipated developments, health care facilities should procure clear management protocols for care providers. Furthermore, it is also important for team members to undertake training in proper utilization of personal protective equipment and scenario simulation, such as emergency cesarean section, in order to ensure efficiency in patient care as well as protective measures.

Declaration of Competing Interest

We declare no competing interest.

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