Second stage of labour

**Passive second stage of labour**
- Full cervical dilatation without expulsive urges
- Passive descent for up to one hour may be appropriate for a woman who has NO urge to push, or those with an epidural or a high presenting part. If maternal and fetal condition allows

**Active second stage of labour**
- Nulliparous woman
- Full dilatation, expulsive contractions, flexion and descent of fetal head. Encourage woman during urges to push for up to 2 hours then consult if birth not imminent (shorter if clinically indicated or as locally required)
- Expect birth by 3 hours (includes active and passive stages)

**Multiparous woman**
- Full dilatation, expulsive contractions, flexion and descent of fetal head. Encourage woman during urges to push for up to one hour, then consult (shorter if clinically indicated or as locally required)
- Expect birth by 2 hours (active and passive stages)

**When delay is suspected**
- Consider possible causes:
  - Cervical dilatation
  - Ineffective pushing
  - Full bladder
  - Requires further analgesia
  - Malpresentation
  - Reduced frequency/force of uterine activity
  - Cephalopelvic disproportion
  - Anxiety/fear/pain

- Management options:
  - Offer VE to confirm full dilatation
  - Coached pushing
  - Offer support and encouragement
  - Consider analgesia
  - Empty bladder. Consider in/out or in-dwelling catheter
  - Change position
  - Medical review and management plan made with woman:
    - Ultrasound to determine position (if available)
    - Consider oxytocin augmentation (Nulliparous only)
    - Consider amniotomy if membranes intact
    - Continuous monitoring
    - Consider manual rotation
    - Consider instrumental birth if favourable +/- in theatre
    - Consider caesarean section

**Continuous EFM is indicated for prolonged first stage as per RANZCOG Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance**

**Consider ease or difficulty of access +/- transfer to referral services. E.g. Location, capability**

**Suspect delay**
- after 1 hour of active second stage in nulliparous woman
- after 30 minutes for multiparous woman

**Diagnose delay** if birth not imminent and insufficient descent
- at 2 hours of active second stage for nulliparous woman
- at 1 hour for multiparous woman

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