

Currently, paediatric sub-specialty physicians from Starship Hospital, Otolaryngology, Paediatric Surgery, and Anesthesiology departments) in conjunction with Maternal Fetal Medicine obstetric specialists, Anaesthesia specialists and Neonatal Intensive Care team at Auckland City Hospital perform this procedure in carefully selected cases.

For more information please contact your local  
NZMFMN Unit



Auckland: 09 307 4949 ext 24951



Wellington: 04 806 0774



Christchurch: 03 364 4557

New Zealand Maternal Fetal Medicine Network  
[NZMFMN@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:NZMFMN@adhb.govt.nz)

## Exit Procedure

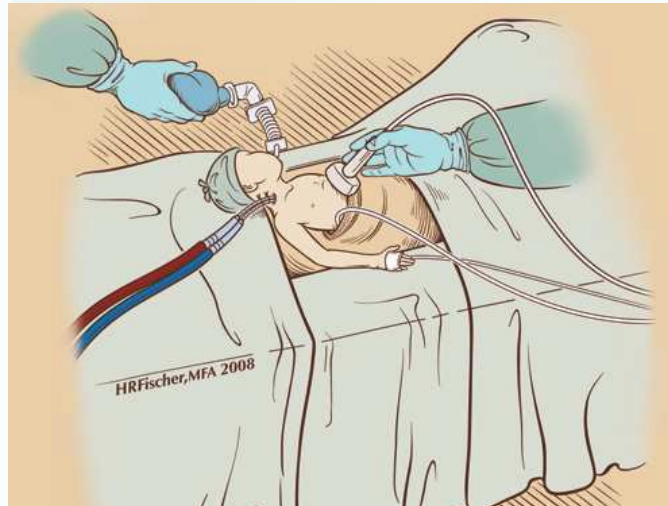


## EXIT Procedure

A fetal EXIT (**EX**-utero Intrapartum Treatment) procedure is a combination of a traditional Cesarean section delivery and an operation on the baby as it is being born to try to correct a problem which would otherwise prevent the baby from living outside the uterus (womb) on its own.

An example of this would be where the fetus has something blocking the natural airway, such as a tumor, so that at the time of normal birth the baby would be unable to breathe. Without an EXIT procedure to open the airway while the baby is still receiving oxygen from the mother via the umbilical cord and placenta, the baby would probably die at birth.

An EXIT procedure requires two full operating teams (surgeons, nurses and anesthesia personnel) working in the same space (the mother's lower abdomen) in a highly coordinated fashion. The procedure requires a high level of expertise and planning.



Added to the risks of a standard Caesarean section and surgery at birth to a sick baby, are the hazards of additional blood loss to mother from having her uterus 'open' while the baby's surgery is being performed there is also the risk to the baby of the placenta separating before the life-saving surgery is completed.

