Storage of uterotonic drugs in the Pharmacy

- Make sure that there are adequate stocks of uterotonic drugs, syringes, and injection safety materials
- Check the manufacturer’s label for storage recommendations
- Make sure that there is a system in place to monitor the temperature of the refrigerator / cold box - record the temperature in the refrigerator on a regular basis, preferably at the hottest times of the day (put thermometers in different parts of the refrigerator)
- Make sure that there is a back-up system in place in case of frequent electricity cuts - for example, gas or solar refrigerators, placing ice packs in the refrigerator to keep it cool, etc.
- Follow the rule of first expired – first out (or first in – first out) and maintain a log to keep track of expiration dates to reduce wastage of uterotonic drugs
- Store misoprostol at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture
- To ensure the longest life possible of injectable uterotonics, keep them refrigerated at 2–8 °C
- Protect ergometrine and syntometrine from freezing and light

Oxytocin is the uterotonic of choice for the practice of AMTSL
Storage of uterotonic drugs in Delivery Rooms

- Check the manufacturer’s label for recommendations on how to store injectable uterotonic drugs outside the refrigerator. In general:
  - Oxytocin may be kept outside the refrigerator at a maximum of 30 °C (warm, ambient climate) for up to three months and then discarded
  - Ergometrine and syntometrine vials may be kept outside the refrigerator in closed boxes and protected from the light for up to one month at 30 °C and then discarded
  - Misoprostol should be stored at room temperature away from excess heat and moisture
- Record the temperature in the delivery room on a regular basis, preferably at the hottest times of the day
- Periodically remove ampoules from the refrigerator for use in the delivery room – carefully calculate the number removed from the refrigerator based anticipated need
- Only remove ampoules or vials from their box just before using them
- Make sure that there are adequate stocks of syringes and injection safety materials
- Avoid keeping injectable uterotonics in open kidney dishes, trays, or coat pockets