**Text

Description automatically generated with low confidenceSEARCH PROCEDURE ANNEX K**

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| **MOTHER AND BABY UNIT SEARCHING OF BABIES** |

Babies are not prisoners but one of the conditions that each mother is required to accept when entering a mother and baby unit is that she will permit the searching of her baby as necessary in the interests of security and the baby’s good health.

Consent must be sought from the mother for the searching of resident babies within mother and baby units.

The following steps must be applied:

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| 1 | Ask the mother to set the baby down safely where they can be observed by searching staff. |
| 2 | Search mother in accordance with the usual search procedures. |
| 3 | Ask mother to consent to a search of the baby. |
| 4 | If consent is given, ask the mother if there is any unauthorised article concealed on the baby.  Conduct the search in line with **Annex J** |
| 5 | If consent is not given, seek line manager’s advice. Searches without consent may only be conducted by a prison officer or police officer. |