Appendix A. Misoprostol for Treatment of Postpartum Hemorrhage

Misoprostol is a prostaglandin E1 analogue that can be used for both the prevention and treatment of postpartum hemorrhage. For the treatment of postpartum hemorrhage, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) recommended dose is 800 mcg (four 200-mcg tablets) sublingually. Unlike oxytocin, misoprostol can be taken in pill form and can be stored at room temperature and does not need refrigeration for any period of time to maintain its effectiveness. As misoprostol can be taken orally, medical personnel do not have to be trained in its administration; by contrast, oxytocin, needs to be given by injection or intravenously. These qualities make misoprostol an attractive alternative to oxytocin in situations where professional medical care is unavailable, as in the case of home deliveries.

References
