Objectives

- Recognize the role played by maternal morbidity and mortality in current national health statistics and health care-related problems
- Identify the factors that commonly make recognition of impending problems in the obstetric patient more difficult to assess and manage
- Outline the concept of failure to rescue and the elements that contribute to an obstetric patient safety event
- Explain the development of the scoring system used in the Obstetric Vital Sign Alert (OVSA) project and include study findings, limitations and implications for health care providers
- Describe the use of the “Empowering Women to Obtain Needed Care” project to address deficiencies in postpartum education and potentially reduce preventable maternal deaths

Content Outline

1. Overview of Current Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Statistics Nationally and Internationally
2. Casual Analysis of Near Misses and Serious Patient Safety Events
3. Definitions of Patient Safety and Elements of an Obstetric Safety Event
4. Obstetric Early Warning Scoring
   4.1 Modified early obstetric warning system (MEOWS)
   4.2 Obstetric vital sign alert (OBVSA) project
5. Postpartum Care and Discharge Education Improvement
   5.1 Postpartum safety bundles
   5.2 “Empowering Women to Obtain Needed Care” project
      5.2.1 Project tools

Reading Material Resources

Module WB1926: Postpartum Complications- Attention to Warning Signs is based on the resources listed below. A copy of each resource is included with the module.


Improving Postpartum Education about Warning Signs of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality, Suplee PD, Kleppel L et al., Nursing for Women’s Health, 2017, 20(6), AWHONN, pp. 553-566