



PLANNING a COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE to PROVIDE INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION WITH a FOCUS on PATIENT SAFETY in OBSTETRICS

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COLLABORATION IS CRITICAL IN MODERN HEALTH CARE. So many issues relevant to quality and safety require interdisciplinary input and perspective that “...only through multidisciplinary education can each provider understand and begin to appreciate the knowledge and valuable opinions that others bring to the table, whether caring for an individual patient or endeavoring to improve patient care on a system-wide level” (Kveraga & Jones, 2011, p. 109). Certainly interdisciplinary education and projects are occurring (Driver & Sturges, 2012; Kveraga & Jones, 2011; Vadnais & Golen, 2011).

Recently, a number of publications have touted the benefits of “team training” to improve obstetric outcomes during emergent situations (Freeth et al., 2009; Merien, van de Ven, Mol, Houterman, & Oei, 2010; van de Ven et al., 2010). Team training can occur via simulations as well as educational offerings. Team training has resulted in improvement in outcomes such as core knowledge, clinical skills, communication and team performance (Merien et al., 2010). Such improvements then translate to the bedside as increases in Apgar scores, better management of eclampsia and shoulder dystocia, as well as reductions in hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (Draycott et al., 2008; Ellis et al., 2008). Multidisciplinary teams have collaborated to successfully tackle clinical issues such as tachysystole and early elective delivery (Doyle, Kenny, Burkett, & von Gruenigen, 2011; Doyle, Kenny, von Gruenigen, Butz, & Burkett, 2012).

Abstract: Collaboration is an important component of evidence-based practice in modern health care. A number of publications have touted the benefits of “team training” to improve obstetric outcomes during emergent situations. In August 2011, the Ohio sections of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) held a joint conference that focused on interdisciplinary education to promote patient safety. This joint venture drew more than 120 attendees, 12 exhibitors and 17 poster displays. Evaluations were positive and attendees cited planned practice changes for themselves as well as for their respective institutions. DOI: 10.1111/1751-486X.12109

Keywords: collaboration | evidence-based practice | interdisciplinary education | obstetrics | patient safety

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