



ELSEVIER

Best Practice & Research Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 625–638, 2007
doi:10.1016/j.bpobgyn.2007.02.004
available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>



8

Anticipating and responding to obstetric emergencies

Jeanne-Marie Guise* MD, MPH

Associate Professor

Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Mail Code: L466, Portland, Oregon 97239-3098, USA

During the last 10 years, international attention has focused on the importance of medical errors and patient safety. When obstetric emergencies occur, effective and efficient care is essential for good outcome and safety. This chapter presents a framework for obstetric safety, reviews the impact of obstetric emergencies on global health, and discusses possible interventions to improve the anticipation of and responses to obstetric emergencies.

Key words: patient safety; obstetric emergencies; obstetric delivery; pregnancy; simulation; human factors; medical errors.

The 1999 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report 'To Err is Human'¹ and National Health Service (NHS) reports 'Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths'² and 'An Organization With a Memory'³ focused the attention of the world on the magnitude of patient safety and medical errors. One of the original studies cited in the IOM report found that while obstetrics had one of the lowest rates of serious adverse events due to errors (1.5%), it had the highest rate of negligent care as judged by an expert panel of peers (38.3%).⁴ Similarly, the Confidential Inquiry into Stillbirth and Death in Infancy (CESDI) reported that 'suboptimal care' occurred in two out of three intrapartum fetal deaths, and asserted that in more than half of these cases, improved care 'might or would reasonably be expected to have made a difference to the outcome.'⁵

IMPACT OF OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES ON GLOBAL HEALTH

Every minute, somewhere in the world a woman dies in pregnancy or childbirth.⁶ Many of the most frightening and lethal obstetric conditions present in otherwise healthy

* Tel.: +1 503 494 2101; Fax: +1 503 418 5074.

E-mail address: guisej@ohsu.edu.

low-risk women at term, complicating up to 15% of all births.⁷ Thus, determining which interventions are most likely to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety in anticipating and responding to obstetric emergencies is an important global health issue.

Labour and delivery units are complex, dynamic places where highly trained professionals from many disciplines work in a fast-paced, unpredictable environment. During obstetric emergencies, time-critical decision-making, team communication and cooperation can make the difference between life and death. While detailed abilities to respond to emergencies depend upon the practice environment, ultimately, we all strive to take care of women as best we can, regardless of location. Figure 1 presents a general framework for anticipating and responding to obstetric emergencies and promoting obstetric safety. It serves as a framework for the discussion contained in this chapter.

This chapter will examine the role of obstetric emergencies in the population of mothers and infants; it will then discuss several interventions designed to improve preparedness and responses to obstetric emergencies, including increasing clinical knowledge, the role of simulation in improving knowledge and skills, interventions designed to improve teamwork, and what is known about obstetric emergency drills designed to address these topics. It will end with a discussion about the future and the role of information technology (IT) to create a global safety culture, increase detection and learning about obstetric safety issues, increase dissemination of safety solutions, improve our data on health outcomes, and make simulation and team training available globally to improve maternal and perinatal health.

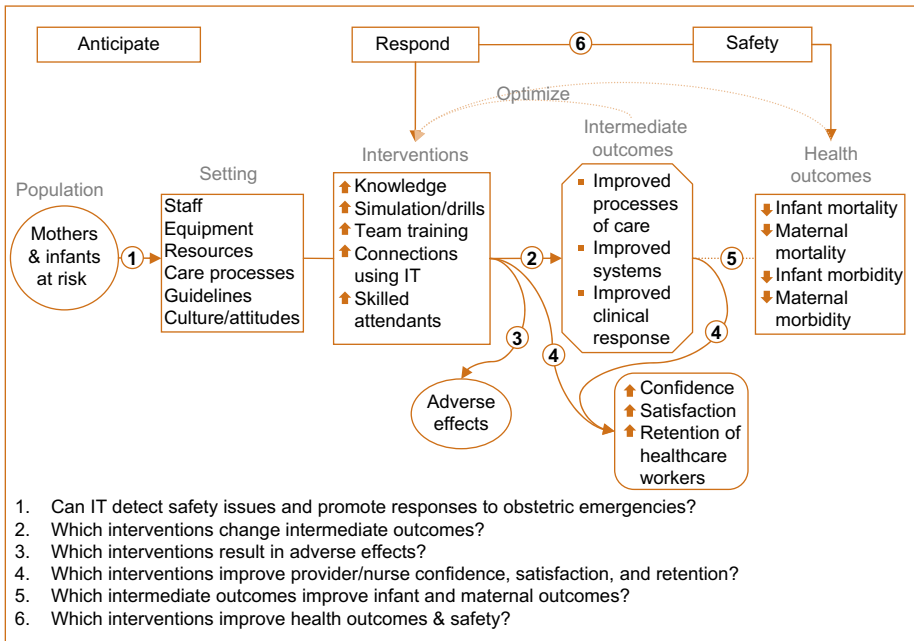


Figure 1. Framework for obstetric safety.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3907661>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3907661>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)