**OB Team Training**

**Teaching a team of experts how to be an expert team**

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**Background**

Every delivery that occurs in the hospital is a multidisciplinary event which may involve obstetricians, family medicine, nurse midwives, anesthesiologist, nursing, support staff as well as newborn nurses, respiratory therapists and pediatricians.

The Joint Commission issued a Sentinel Alert in 2004 citing that the primary causes of perinatal death and injury are ineffective communication and teamwork.

In addition to TJC several national perinatal organizations have issued directives promoting team training in high-risk OB events with an emphasis on communication and teamwork.

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**Discussion**

OB Team Training has been in place since 2006. Twelve four-hour sessions are done yearly. The clinical focus is on a specific high-risk OB event such as postpartum hemorrhage, eclamptic seizures or maternal cardiac arrest with perimortem cesarean section.

Every year approximately 160 participants go through OB Team Training including:
- Obstetricians (Attending & Residents)
- Anesthesiologists (Attending & Residents)
- Nurse Midwives
- L&D nurses and support staff

This simulation program is done in situ using both a standardized patient and simulation manikin.

The scenarios are taped and viewed in the debriefing sessions.

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**Evaluation Method**

Starting in 2013 all participants evaluated the training session using the Clinical Teamwork Scale. This validated scale was developed with the support of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The CTS contains 15 questions in 5 clinical teamwork domains:
- Communication
- Situational Awareness
- Decision making
- Role Responsibility
- Patient friendliness

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**Cumulative Yearly Scores Based on Participant Evaluations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-delivery team huddle/delivery review</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Friendly</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform as a leader</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Role Responsibility Rating</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall decision making</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall situational awareness</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall communication</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How would you rate teamwork during this delivery/emergency?</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Participant comments**

- "I really appreciate the open discussion with anesthesia and the OB Chief about priorities in an emergences"
- "It was really helpful to have this happen in a controlled situation so I could practice. Now I know what to do"
- “Everyone was very respectful Respect helps a lot with good communication and can make a difference with patient outcomes”
- "The chance to be able to see myself handle my responsibility was good. It will help me do better and be more helpful to the team”
- “Debriefing was helpful and a supportive environment”

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**Conclusion**

Multidisciplinary team training is a shared learning experience between faculty and staff that creates a common vocabulary and frame of reference for the application of communication and teamwork skills in clinical care. Teamwork training is a critical part of any comprehensive safety plan.

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**References**


