



# Implementing Quantification of Blood Loss

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## Disclosures for Debra Bingham and Sherrie Burkholder, MHA, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM

Debra Bingham is the Executive Director of the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement and is a consultant for the:

- National Perinatal Information Center
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.
- I will not discuss any off-label use/or investigational use in my presentation.

# 17 Year Research to Action Gap

“It now takes an average of 17 years for new knowledge generated by randomized controlled trials to be incorporated into practice, and even then application is highly uneven.”

Institute of Medicine (2001). Crossing the quality chasm: A new health system for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, pg. 5.

The mission of the Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement (PQI) is to expand the use of improvement science in order to eliminate preventable perinatal morbidity and mortality and end perinatal racial and ethnic disparities.





*QI Saves Lives!*  
[www.perinatalQI.org](http://www.perinatalQI.org)

***After participation in this presentation, you should have an increased knowledge and enhanced competence to...***

- Describe why the national recommendation is to measure cumulative blood loss.
- Discuss implementations tips for quantifying of blood loss.

# Quality Improvement is the Responsibility of All Health Care Providers

*“QI is an ongoing process undertaken as a consequence of **health care providers’ responsibility** to serve their patients’ interests.”*

Baily, M.A., Bottrell, M., Lynn, J., & Jennings (2006). Special report: the ethics of using QI methods to improve healthcare quality and safety. The Hastings Center: Garrison New York.

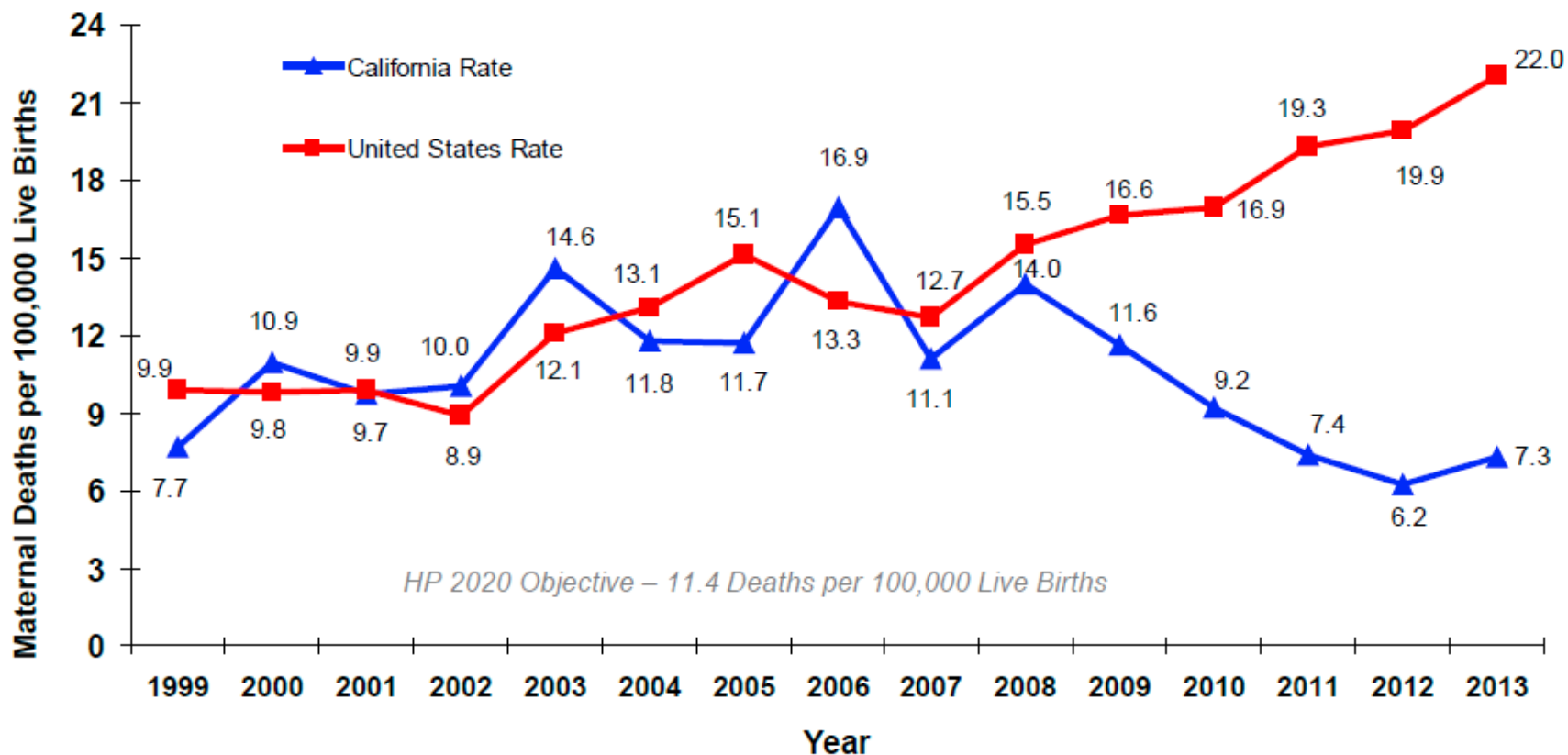


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Trends in Maternal  
Morbidity and  
Mortality



# Maternal Mortality Rate, California and United States; 1999-2013



SOURCE: State of California, Department of Public Health, California Birth and Death Statistical Master Files, 1999-2013. Maternal mortality for California (deaths  $\leq$  42 days postpartum) was calculated using ICD-10 cause of death classification (codes A34, O00-O95, O98-O99). United States data and HP2020 Objective use the same codes. U.S. maternal mortality data is published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through 2007 only. U.S. maternal mortality rates from 2008 through 2013 were calculated using CDC Wonder Online Database, accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov> March 11, 2015. Produced by California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, May, 2015.

# Leading Causes of Maternal Mortality Worldwide

- Hemorrhage
- Hypertension

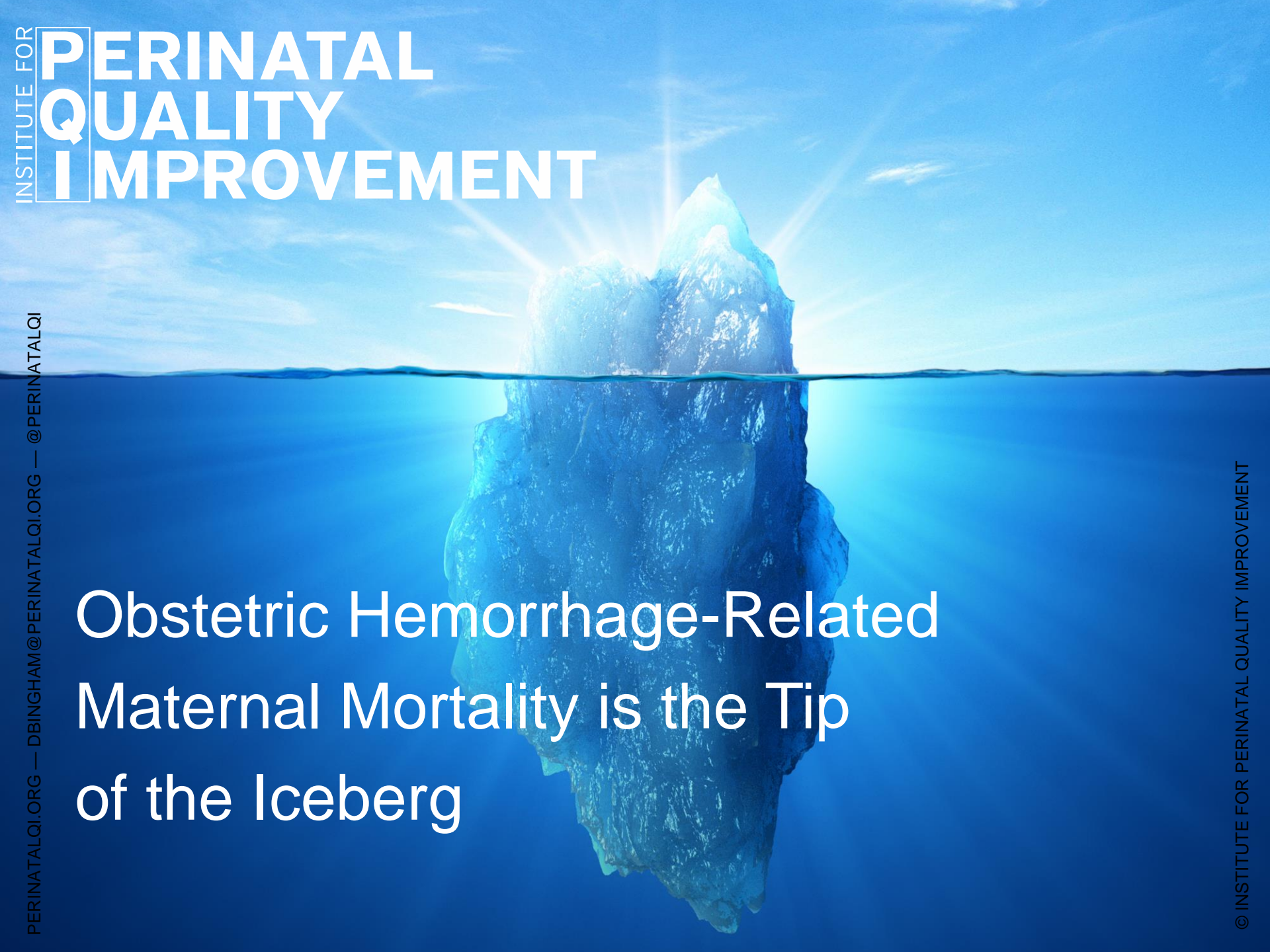
In the United States the leading causes of preventable pregnancy-related deaths are:

Hemorrhage  
Hypertension  
Thromboembolism  
Sepsis

- In 2006, obstetric hemorrhage affected 124,708 (2.9%) of all women who gave birth in the United States
- Obstetric hemorrhage is a major cause of preventable maternal mortality

Callaghan, W. M., Kuklina, E. V., & Berg, C. J. (2010). Trends in postpartum hemorrhage: United States, 1994–2006. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 202(4), 353.e1–353.e6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2010.01.011>

Bateman, B. T., Berman, M. F., Riley, L. E., & Leffert, L. R. (2010). The epidemiology of postpartum hemorrhage in a large, nationwide sample of deliveries. *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, 110, 1368–1373. <https://doi.org/10.1213/ANE.0b013e3181d74898>



Obstetric Hemorrhage-Related  
Maternal Mortality is the Tip  
of the Iceberg

# PERINATAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- 1998-1999 compared to 2008-2009
- 75% increase in severe maternal complications
  - 183% increase in blood transfusions

Callaghan, W.M., Creanga, A.A., and Kuklina, E.V. (2012). Severe maternal morbidity among delivery and postpartum hospitalizations in the United States. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

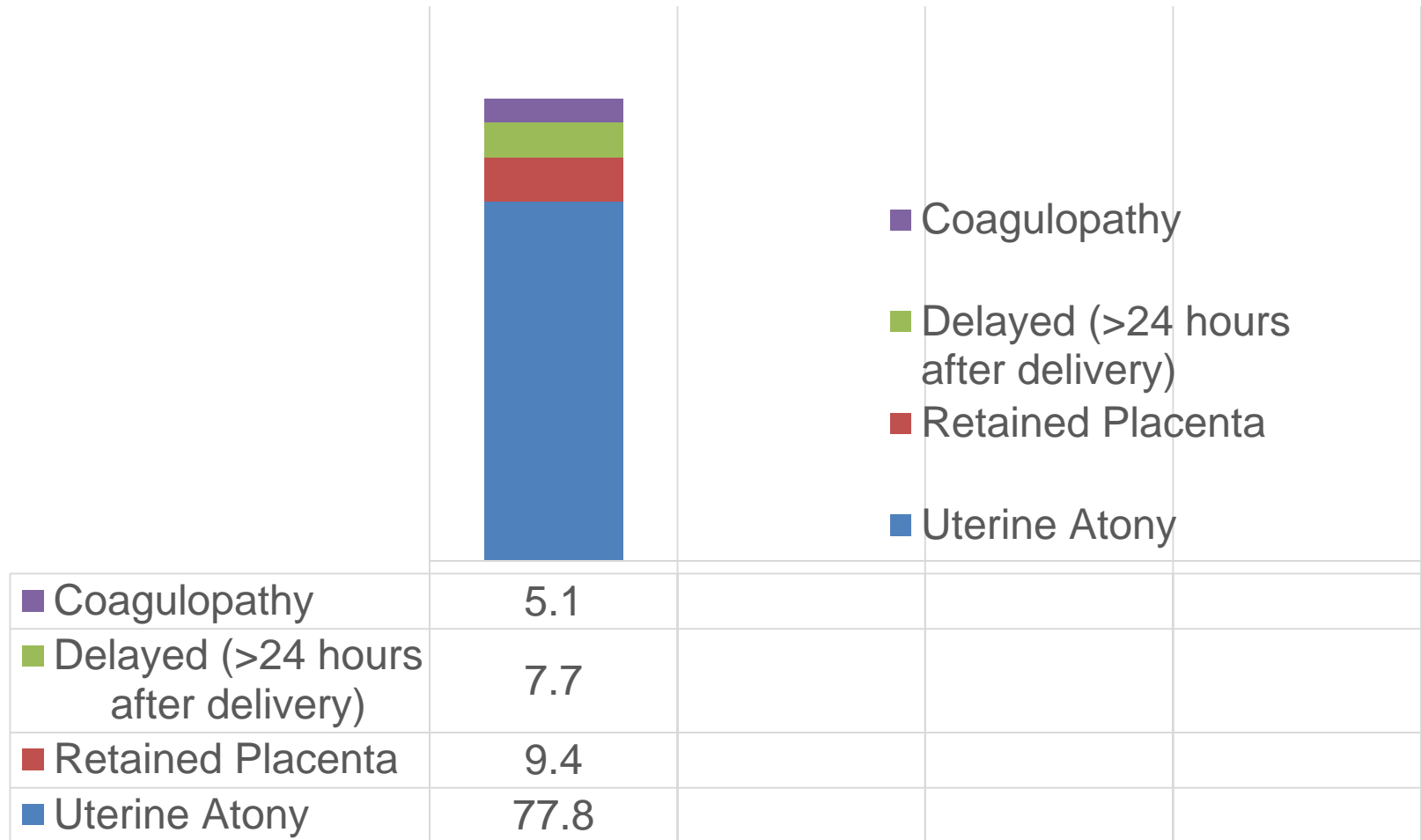
54-93% of hemorrhage-related deaths were preventable!

Della Torre, M., Kilpatrick, S. J., Hibbard, J. U., Simonson, L., Scott, S., Koch, A., ... Geller, S. E. (2011). Assessing Preventability for Obstetric Hemorrhage. *American Journal of Perinatology*. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0031-1280856>

California Department of Health Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review Report (2011). <https://www.cmqcc.org/resource/california-pregnancy-associated-mortality-review-ca-pamr-report-2002-and-2003-maternal>

Berg, C. J., Harper, M. A., Atkinson, S. M., Bell, E. A., Brown, H. L., Hage, M. L., ... Callaghan, W. M. (2005). Preventability of pregnancy-related deaths: results of a state-wide review. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 106, 1228–1234. [https://doi.org 10.1097/01.AOG.0000187894.71913.e8](https://doi.org/10.1097/01.AOG.0000187894.71913.e8)

# Etiology of Postpartum Hemorrhage (n=26,175)



Bateman et al. (2010). *Anesthesia Analgesia*. 110(5):1368-73.

# Baseline Assessment

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JOGNN

**RESEARCH**



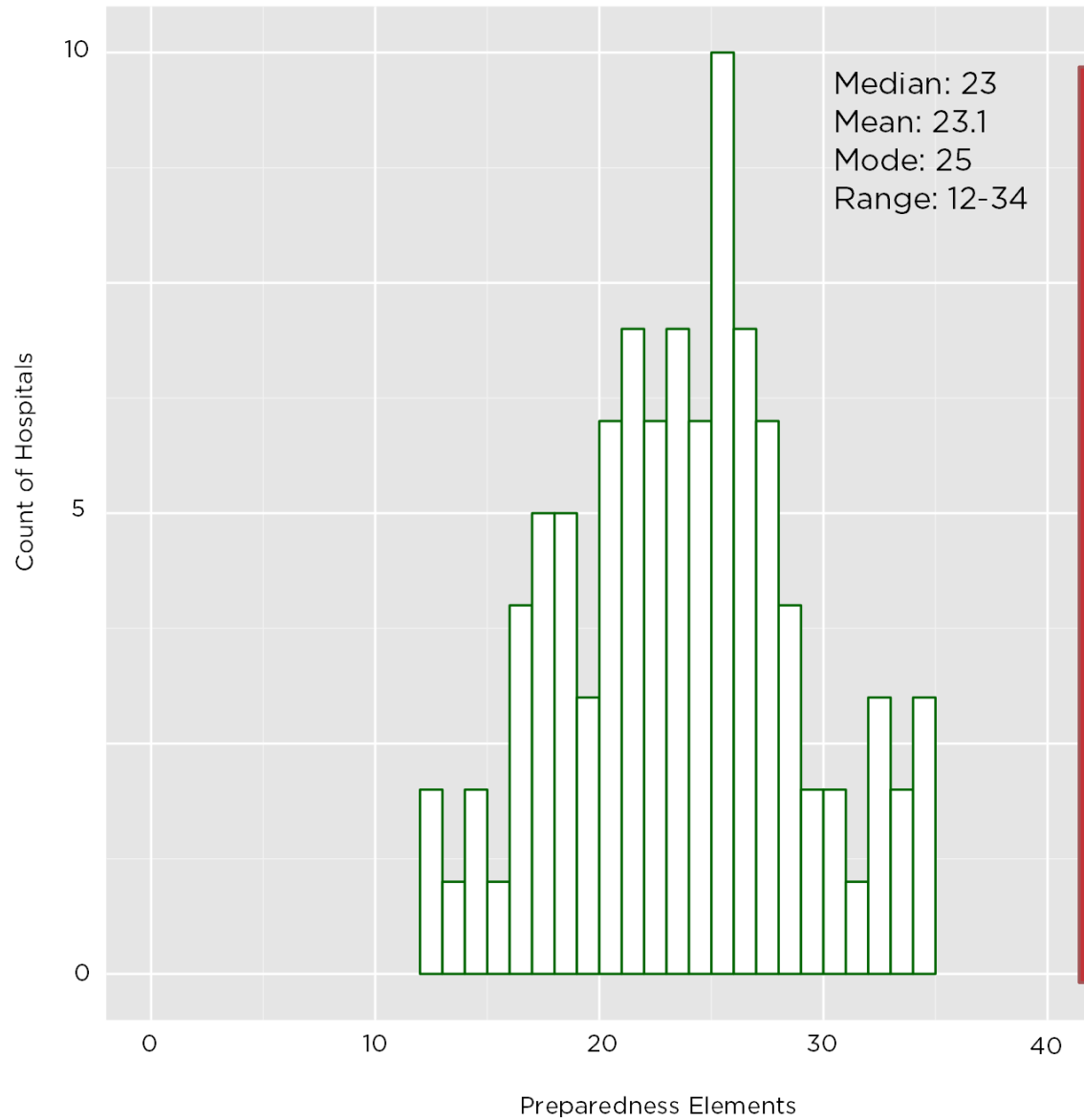
## Postpartum Hemorrhage Preparedness Elements Vary Among Hospitals in New Jersey and Georgia

Debra Bingham, Benjamin Scheich, Renée Byfield, Barbara Wilson, and Brian T. Bateman

Bingham, D., Sceheich, B., Byfield, R., Wilson, B., and Bateman, B.T. (2016). Postpartum hemorrhage preparedness elements vary among hospitals in New Jersey and Georgia. Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nurses, (45) pp. 227-238.



Figure 1: Number of Preparedness Elements



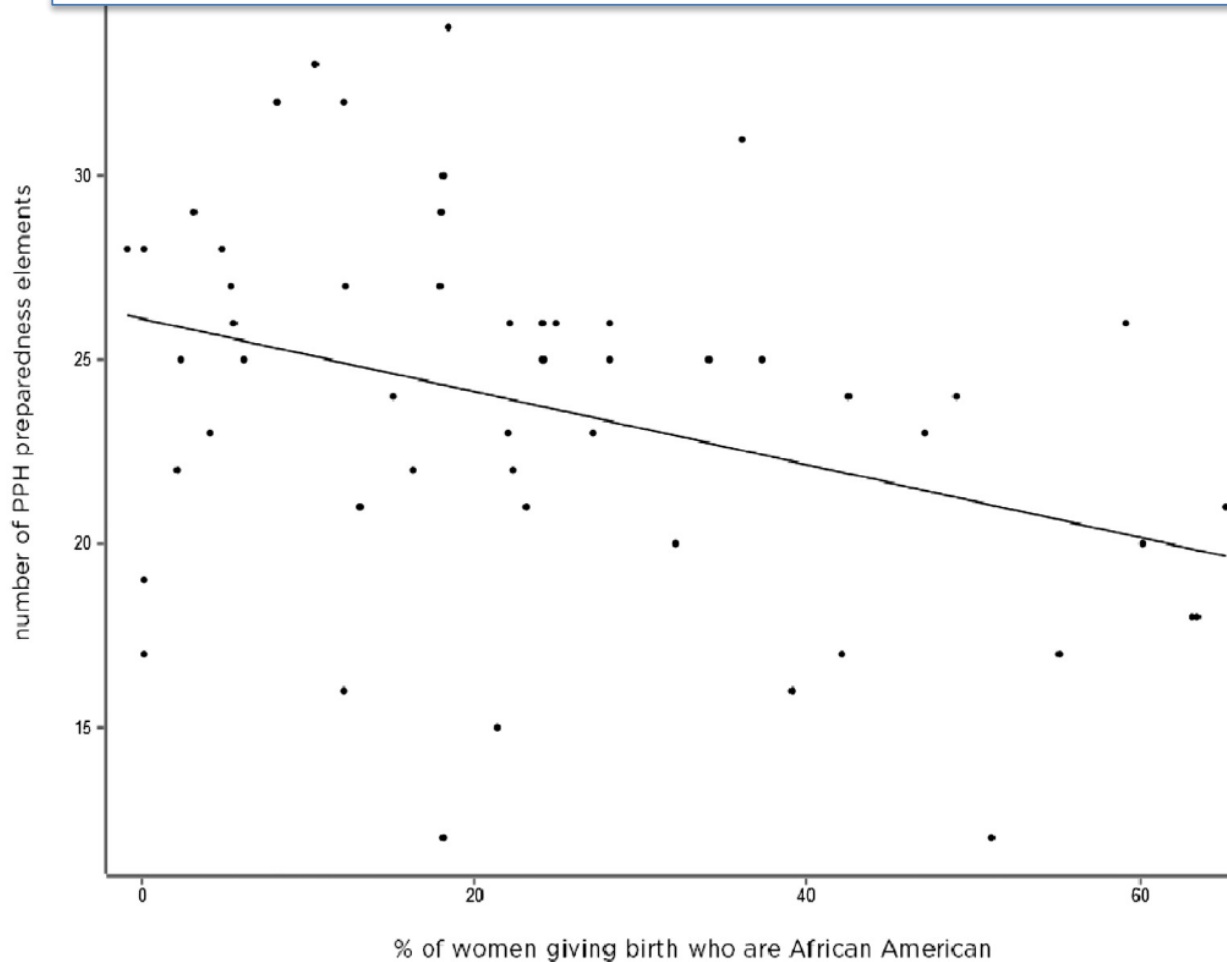
General P&P: 74.4%  
 Massive Hem P&P: 36.8%  
 PPH Simulation Drills: 57.9%

QBL 1-2 hours after birth:  
 11.6%  
 B-Lynch Sutures: 55.8%

Rapid Infuser: 63.2%  
 Maternal Warming Device:  
 90.5%  
 Uterine Balloon: 92.6%

Bingham, D., Sceheich, B., Byfield, R., Wilson, B., and Bateman, B.T. (2016). Postpartum hemorrhage preparedness elements vary among hospitals in New Jersey and Georgia. Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nurses, (45) pp. 227-238.

# Number of Preparedness Elements Based on Percent of Women Giving Birth who were African American



For every 10% increase in the total percentage of African American women who gave birth, there was a decrease of one preparedness element.

**Figure 3.** Number of preparedness elements based on percentage of African American women ( $N = 53$ ). Regression model:  $y = 26.3 - 0.10x$ ;  $p < .01$ ;  $r^2 = 0.11$ .

Bingham, D., Sceheich, B., Byfield, R., Wilson, B., and Bateman, B.T. (2016). Postpartum hemorrhage preparedness elements vary among hospitals in New Jersey and Georgia. *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nurses*, (45) pp. 227-238.

Women die because they do not receive early, effective and aggressive lifesaving treatments.



California Department of Public Health (2011). The California pregnancy associated mortality review: Report from 2002 and 2003 Maternal Death Reviews.

# National Partnership for Patient Safety Maternal Safety Bundles

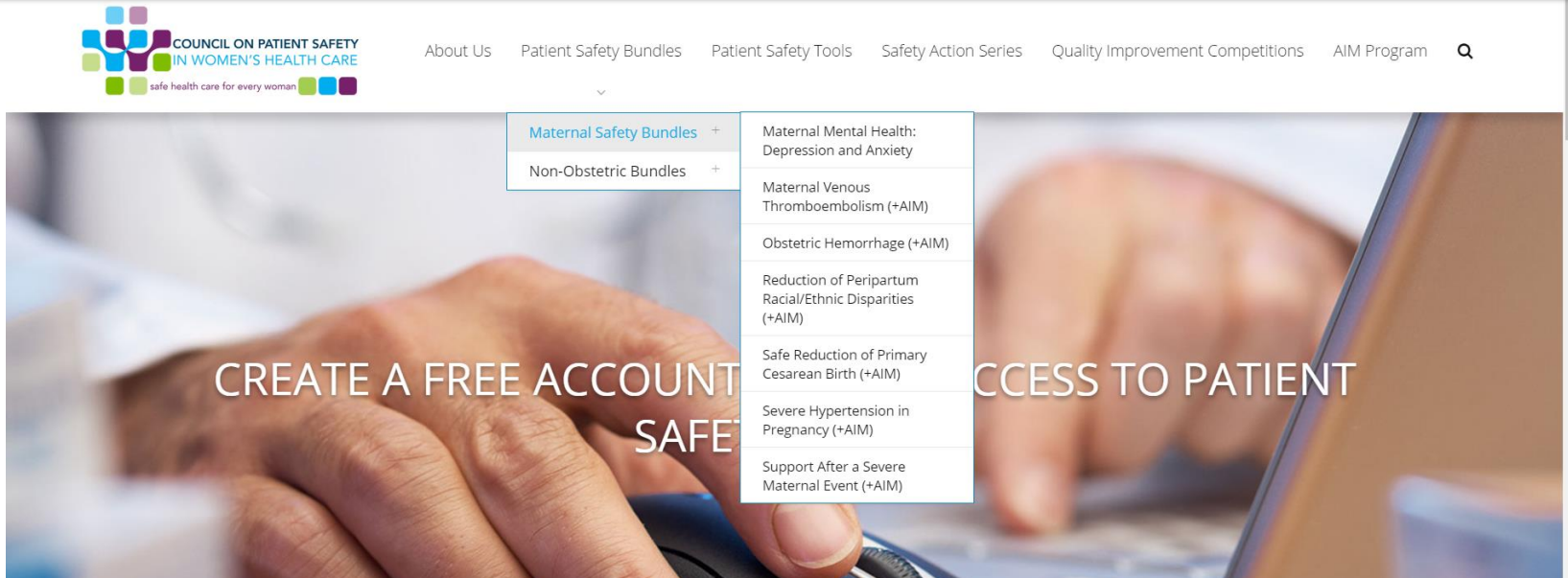
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“What every birthing facility  
in the U.S. should have...”

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# Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care Bundles

[www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org](http://www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org)



Dr. Bingham helped form the Council and was the Vice Chair and Chair of the Council

# Council on Patient Safety Maternal Bundles

- Maternal Mental Health: Depression and Anxiety
- **Obstetric Hemorrhage**
- Maternal Venous Thromboembolism
- Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy
- Safe Reduction of Primary Cesarean Birth
- Support after a Severe Maternal Event
- Reduction of Peripartum Racial/Ethnic Disparities
- Severe Maternal Morbidity Review
- Postpartum Care Basics for Maternal Safety: From Birth to the Comprehensive Postpartum Visit

# Safety Bundles Recommendations:

- Hold Team Huddles
- Debrief After Events
- Run Simulation Drills

“What every birthing facility  
in the U.S. should have...”



## READINESS

### Every unit

- Hemorrhage cart with supplies, checklist, and instruction cards for intrauterine balloons and compressions stitches
- Immediate access to hemorrhage medications (kit or equivalent)
- Establish a response team - who to call when help is needed (blood bank, advanced gynecologic surgery, other support and tertiary services)
- Establish massive and emergency release transfusion protocols (type-O negative/uncrossmatched)
- Unit education on protocols, unit-based drills (with post-drill debriefs)

## RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

### Every patient

- Assessment of hemorrhage risk (prenatal, on admission, and at other appropriate times)
- Measurement of cumulative blood loss (formal, as quantitative as possible)
- Active management of the 3rd stage of labor (department-wide protocol)

## RESPONSE

### Every hemorrhage

- Unit-standard, stage-based, obstetric hemorrhage emergency management plan with checklists
- Support program for patients, families, and staff for all significant hemorrhages

## REPORTING/SYSTEMS LEARNING

### Every unit

- Establish a culture of huddles for high risk patients and post-event debriefs to identify successes and opportunities
- Multidisciplinary review of serious hemorrhages for systems issues
- Monitor outcomes and process metrics in perinatal quality improvement (QI) committee





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Implementing the Obstetric Hemorrhage Patient Safety Bundle

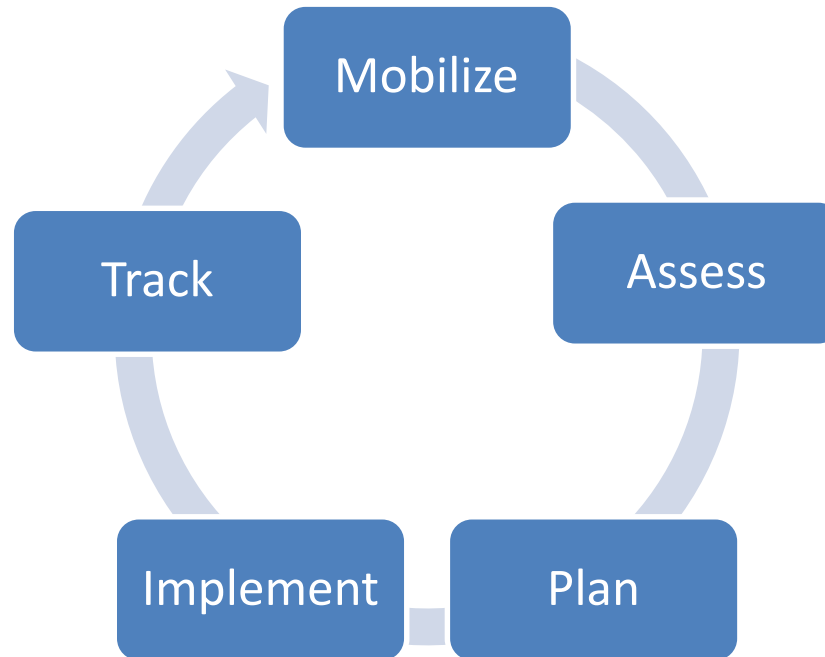
# Quality Improvement Process Models

- Plan-Do-Study-Act
- MAP-IT – My favorite
  - Mobilize
  - Assess
  - Plan
  - Implement
  - Track

Have a Plan – Be Systematic

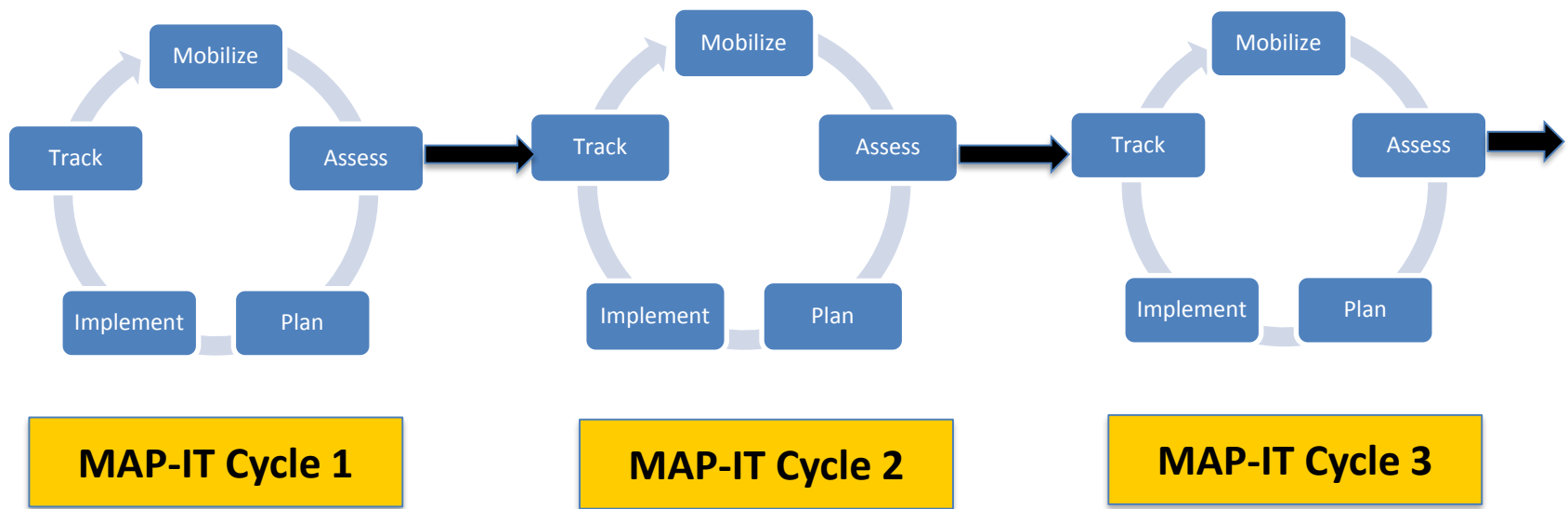
# MAP-IT is a QI Process Model

Mobilize – Assess – Plan – Implement –  
Track (MAP-IT)



Guidry, M., Vischi, T., Han, R., & Passons, O. MAP-IT: a guide to using healthy people 2020 in your community. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Washington, D.C. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/tools-and-resources/Program-Planning>

Perform Small Tests of Change  
Learn then Adjust (as often as needed)



Quality  
Improvement  
is like  
climbing a  
spiral  
staircase

Each cycle gets you closer to your goal

# AWHONN PPH Project Wrap-Up Video

The AWHONN Postpartum Hemorrhage Project

A Multi-Hospital Quality Improvement Program

PROJECT OVERVIEW DC-GA-NJ PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS RESOURCES TAKE ACTION ABOUT AWHONN

**54-93%**

Percentage of maternal hemorrhage-related deaths that could have been prevented with improved clinical response

**Women are the cornerstone of a healthy and prosperous world—we must act now to eliminate preventable deaths and injuries.**

Reducing the number of women who bleed to death during or after pregnancy and birth is the goal of the AWHONN Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH) Project. The project is designed to improve clinicians' recognition of, readiness for, and response to postpartum hemorrhage.

Project Overview: Improve PPH care through quality

DC, GA & NJ: Learn more about our geographic areas of

Participating Hospitals: View the list of participating hospitals &

Resources: Access more information on best practices

9:05 AM 3/24/2017

[www.pphproject.org](http://www.pphproject.org)



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**MOBILIZE**

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# Start with a Small Committed Group of Clinicians

"Never doubt that a small  
group of thoughtful  
committed citizens  
can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the  
only thing that  
ever has."

*Margaret Mead, Anthropologist*





# Mobilize - Change Champions

Explain **WHY** the change is needed

A confident change champion feels they are up to the task and will keep trying

Weiner, B.J. (2009). A theory of organizational readiness for change. Implementation Science. Doi:10.1186/1748-5908-4-67

# Composite Case Example: 24yo G2 P1 at 38 weeks gestation induced because she was “tired of being pregnant”

- After 8hr active phase and 2 hour 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, she gave birth, NSVD, infant weighed 8lb 6oz
- After placental delivery she had an episode of atony that firmed with massage. A second episode responded to IM methergine and the physician went home (now 1am)
- The nurses called the physician 30 min later to report more bleeding and further methergine was ordered
- 60min after the call, the physician performed a D&C with minimal return of tissue. More methergine was given

Bingham, D., Lyndon, A., Lagrew, D., and Main, E. K. (2011). A state-wide obstetric hemorrhage quality improvement initiative. *American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 36(5), 297–304.  
doi:10.1097/NMC.0b013e318227c75f

# Composite Case Example: 24yo G2 P1 at 38 weeks gestation induced because she was “tired of being pregnant”, cont.

- 45 min later a second D&C was performed, again with minimal returns. EBL now >2,000
- Delays in blood transfusion because of inability to find proper tubing
- Anesthesia is delayed, but a second IV started for more crystalloid. VS now markedly abnormal, P=144, BP 80/30
- One further Methergine given and patient taken for a 3<sup>rd</sup> D&C; received 2u PRBCs
- After completion, she had a cardiac arrest from hypovolemia /hypoxia and was taken to the ICU when she succumbed 3 hours later

Bingham, D., Lyndon, A., Lagrew, D., and Main, E. K. (2011). A state-wide obstetric hemorrhage quality improvement initiative. *American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 36(5), 297–304.  
doi:10.1097/NMC.0b013e318227c75f

# What are the Quality Improvement Opportunities Identified for Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity from OB Hemorrhage?





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**ASSESS**

# Prioritize Which Changes are Most Needed at Your Hospital

- Perform Risk Assessments on Prenatal, Admission, Pre-Birth, and Post-Birth
- Implement Quantification of Blood Loss
- Implement an obstetric hemorrhage algorithm based on measurement of cumulative blood loss
- Debrief after all Stage 2 and 3 hemorrhages
- Huddles for high-risk women
- Run Obstetric Simulation Drills

# CMQCC's Risk Assessment Tool

CMQCC

## Obstetric Hemorrhage Emergency Management Plan: Checklist Format

Revision 9/10/14

### Stage 0: All Births – Prevention & Recognition of OB Hemorrhage Prenatal Assessment & Planning

- Identify and prepare for patients with special considerations: Placenta Previa/Accreta, Bleeding Disorder, or those who Decline Blood Products
- Screen and aggressively treat severe anemia: if oral iron fails, initiate IV Iron Sucrose Protocol to reach desired Hgb/Hct, especially for at risk mothers.

#### Admission Assessment & Planning

Verify Type & Antibody Screen from prenatal record

*If not available,*

- Order Type & Screen (lab will notify if 2<sup>nd</sup> specimen needed for confirmation)

*If prenatal or current antibody screen positive (if not low level anti-D from Rho-GAM),*

- Type & Crossmatch 2 units PRBCs

*All other patients,*

- Send specimen to blood bank

- Evaluate for **Risk Factors** on admission, throughout labor, and postpartum. (At every handoff)

*If medium risk:*

- Order Type & Screen
- Review Hemorrhage Protocol

*If high risk:*

- Order Type & Crossmatch 2 units PRBCs
- Review Hemorrhage Protocol
- Notify OB Anesthesia

*Identify* women who may decline transfusion

- Notify OB provider for plan of care
- Early consult with OB anesthesia
- Review Consent Form

#### Ongoing Risk Assessment

- Evaluate for development of additional risk factors in labor:

- Prolonged 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage labor
- Prolonged oxytocin use
- Active bleeding
- Chorioamnionitis
- Magnesium sulfate treatment

- Increase Risk level (see below) and convert to Type & Screen or Type & Crossmatch
- Treat multiple risk factors as High Risk
- Monitor women postpartum for increased bleeding

#### Admission Hemorrhage Risk Factor Evaluation

Low (Clot only)	Medium (Type and Screen)	High (Type and Crossmatch)
No previous uterine incision	Prior cesarean birth(s) or uterine surgery	Placenta previa, low lying placenta
Singleton pregnancy	Multiple gestation	Suspected Placenta accreta or percreta
≤ 4 previous vaginal births	> 4 previous vaginal births	Hematocrit < 30 AND other risk factors
No known bleeding disorder	Chorioamnionitis	Platelets < 100,000
No history of PPH	History of previous PPH	Active bleeding (greater than show) on admit
	Large uterine fibroids	Known coagulopathy

#### All Births – Prophylactic Oxytocin, Quantitative Evaluation of Blood Loss, & Close Monitoring

**Active Management of Third Stage**

- Oxytocin infusion: 10-40 units oxytocin/1000 ml solution titrate infusion rate to uterine tone; or 10 units IM; do not give oxytocin as IV push

**Ongoing Quantitative Evaluation of Blood Loss**

- Using formal methods, such as graduated containers, visual comparisons and weight of blood soaked materials (1gm = 1ml)

**Ongoing Evaluation of Vital Signs**

**If: Cumulative Blood Loss > 500ml vaginal birth or > 1000ml C/S with continued bleeding -OR-**

**Vital signs > 15% change or HR ≥ 110, BP ≤ 85/45, O2 sat < 95% -OR- Increased bleeding during recovery or postpartum, proceed to STAGE 1**

Lyndon, A., Lagrew, D., Shields, L.E., Main, E., & Cape, V.. (2015). Improving health care response to obstetric hemorrhage. (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative Toolkit to Transform Maternity Care under contract #11-10006 with the California Department of Public Health; Maternal, and Adolescent Health Division.

# AWHONN's Risk Assessment Tool

The AWHONN Postpartum Hemorrhage Project		POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) RISK ASSESSMENT TABLE • 1.0			
<b>RISK CATEGORY: PRE-BIRTH</b>					
The AWHONN Postpartum Hemorrhage Project CLINICAL • Each box factors as prenatal risk factors (such as placental products)		The AWHONN Postpartum Hemorrhage Project POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) RISK ASSESSMENT TABLE • 1.0			
<b>RISK CATEGORY: POST-BIRTH (Within 60 minutes after birth)</b>					
		Low Risk	Medium Risk (2 or More Medium Risk Factors Advance Patient to High Risk Status)	High Risk	
		<b>INCLUDE ADMISSION AND PRE-BIRTH LOW RISK FACTORS</b>	<b>INCLUDE ADMISSION AND PRE-BIRTH MEDIUM RISK FACTORS</b>	<b>INCLUDE ADMISSION AND PRE-BIRTH HIGH RISK FACTORS</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No known bleeding disorder	<input type="checkbox"/> Large uterine fibroids	<input type="checkbox"/> Has 2 or more medium risk factors	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No previous uterine incision	<input type="checkbox"/> Operative vaginal delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Active bleeding	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No history of PPH	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> degree perineal laceration	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficult placental extraction	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal or cervical laceration and/or mediolateral episiotomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Concealed abruption	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Cesarean birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Uterine inversion	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Precipitous delivery		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder dystocia		
<b>Anticipatory Interventions</b>					
Continue to monitor patient for any change in risk factors after birth and implement anticipatory interventions as indicated.					
		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Blood Bank Order:</b> Change blood bank orders as needed if risk category changes	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clot Only (Type and Hold)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confirm Type and Screen</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confirm Type and Cross (See Clinical Guidelines)</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize scales and calibrated equipment to weigh and measure maternal blood loss for every birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Review your hemorrhage protocol	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the blood bank
				<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Provider and the Charge Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/> Review your hemorrhage protocol
				<input type="checkbox"/> Heightened postpartum assessment surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Provider, Charge Nurse and obtain additional nursing personnel
				<input type="checkbox"/> Heightened postpartum assessment surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Provider, Charge Nurse and obtain additional nursing personnel
				<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize scales and calibrated equipment to quantify cumulative maternal blood loss for every birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Provider, Charge Nurse and obtain additional nursing personnel
				<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize scales and calibrated equipment to quantify cumulative maternal blood loss for every birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Provider, Charge Nurse and obtain additional nursing personnel
				<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain IV access	<input type="checkbox"/> Heightened postpartum assessment surveillance
				<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm availability of Anesthesia Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize scales and calibrated equipment to quantify cumulative maternal blood loss for every birth
				<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure immediate availability of uterotonics (oxytocin, Methergine, Hemabate, misoprostol)	<input type="checkbox"/> Insertion of a second large bore IV is optional
				<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the hemorrhage cart with supplies is near the patient's room	<input type="checkbox"/> Notify Anesthesia Provider to come to the unit
				<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure OR and staff available	<input type="checkbox"/> Check and ensure immediate availability of uterotonics (oxytocin, Methergine, Hemabate, misoprostol) and supplies for administration (such as syringes, needles, alcohol swabs)
					<input type="checkbox"/> Bring hemorrhage cart with supplies to the bedside
					<input type="checkbox"/> Consider notifying team to prepare the OR
					<input type="checkbox"/> Consider notifying Interventional Radiology if available in facility

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This tool should be used to guide clinical decision-making but does not





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**PLAN**

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# Use SMART Objectives

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**chievable
- **R**ealistic
- **T**ime Specific

# Set A Goal or Quality Improvement Aim Statement

- By April 2018 the nurses and physicians at Fabulous Hospital will perform hemorrhage risk assessments on admission, pre-birth, and post-birth, quantify blood loss at every birth, use actual blood loss to determine actions, participate in drills, and debrief after all stage 2 and 3 hemorrhages
- We will track our progress by....



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**IMPLEMENT**

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# Persuasion

- Focus on the **WHY** before telling people **WHAT, WHO, and HOW**
- Let others help work out the **HOW**
- Plan vicarious experiences of self-discovery
- Try small tests of change

Run a simulation drill to demonstrate how inaccurate estimating blood loss is


# Quantification of Blood Loss Methods

- **Quantification of blood loss** is a formal measurement using weighing and blood collection devices to determine the actual amount of blood loss
- Methods to quantify blood loss, such as weighing, are significantly more accurate than EBL (Al Kadri et al., 2011).
- The use of a calibrated drape had an error rate of less than 15% (Toledo et al., 2007).

AWHONN (2015). Quantification of blood loss: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 1. Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing.44, pp 158-160.

# AWHONN Practice Brief

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses



**PRACTICE BRIEF**

**CLINICAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH AND PERINATAL NURSES**

NUMBER 1, MAY 2014

## Quantification of Blood Loss

**Recommendation:**

AWHONN recommends that blood loss be formally measured or quantified after every birth.

**Magnitude of the Problem**

- A leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality is failure to recognize excessive blood loss during childbirth (The Joint Commission, 2010).
- Women die from obstetric hemorrhage because effective interventions are not initiated early enough (Berg et al., 2005; Della Torre et al., 2011).
- New York State Department of Health (2004, 2009) issued health advisories informing health care providers to prevent maternal deaths by improving recognition of and response to hemorrhage.

AWHONN (2015). Quantification of blood loss: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 1. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*.44, pp 158-160.

# Inaccuracy of Visual Estimation of Blood Loss

EBL is common practice in obstetrics, however its inaccuracy has been well established:

- Research from the 1960s have shown errors of both underestimation and overestimation (Brant, 1967; Pritchard, 1965).
- Visual estimation can underestimate actual blood loss by 33 – 50% (Patel et al., 2006).
- With training, clinicians initially improved accuracy with visual estimation but experienced skill decay (Dildy et al., 2004) within 9 months of training completion (Toledo et al., 2012).
- Provider specialty, age, or years of experience are all unrelated to accuracy of visual EBL (Al Kadri et al., 2011; Toledo et al., 2007).

AWHONN (2015). Quantification of blood loss: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 1. Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing.44, pp 158-160.



# Visual Estimation: Overestimation and Underestimation

- Visual EBL consistently resulted in underestimation of large volumes (Brant, 1967; Duthie et al., 1990; Stafford et al., 2008) of greater than 1000 ml (Stafford et al., 2008)
- With smaller volumes, EBL resulted in overestimation compared to direct measurement (Dildy et al., 2004)
- Inaccurate postpartum blood loss volume measurement has the following consequences
  - **Overestimation** can lead to costly, unnecessary treatments like transfusions
  - **Underestimation** can lead to the delay of life saving hemorrhage interventions

AWHONN (2015). Quantification of blood loss: AWHONN Practice Brief Number 1. Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing.44, pp 158-160.

# AHRQ Management of Postpartum Hemorrhage Systematic Review: Research Gaps

- “Clearly identifying the trajectory of care, including which interventions were used and the order and timing of interventions.” pg. ES-22
- “Using and clearly reporting objective methods to diagnoses PPH and evaluate management, including accurate measurement of blood loss. Visual estimation of blood loss is too imprecise to be used in research.” pg. ES-23

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2015) Comparative Effectiveness Review: Number 151. No. 15-#HC013-EF

# Quantification of Blood Loss (QBL) Simulation



# Make Weighing Easy to Do

## Develop a QBL Calculator or Worksheet

	Wet Weight	Minus Dry Weight	Total mls Blood Loss
Blue Chux		5 grams	
Vaginal Count Bag+5 laps+2 sponge		1 grams	
1 lap		2 grams	
1 sponge		0.05 grams	
<b>Birth Total</b>			
Large sheet		53 grams	
<b>Immediate PP Total</b>			
<b>Total Blood Labor and Delivery Blood Loss</b>			

# AWHONN Quantification of Blood Loss YouTube Video

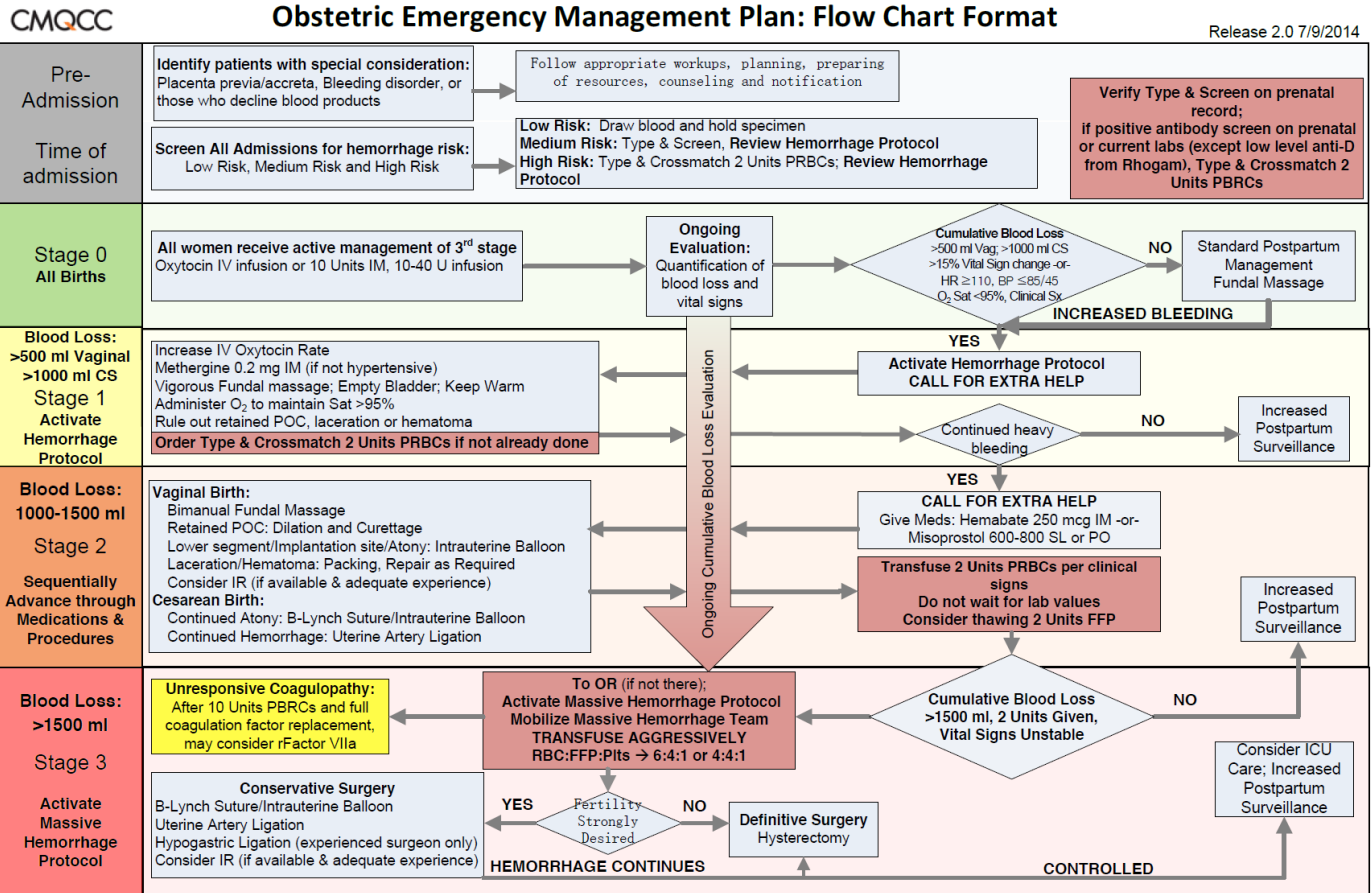


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_ac-aCbEn0&list=UUPrOhL3Od7ZeFDq27ycS00g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_ac-aCbEn0&list=UUPrOhL3Od7ZeFDq27ycS00g)

# Standardized Obstetric Hemorrhage Management: Use an Algorithm

- Everyone use the same definitions
- Stages are based upon the amount of “cumulative measured” blood loss
- Stages outline specific actions
- Teams practice what to do and how to work together

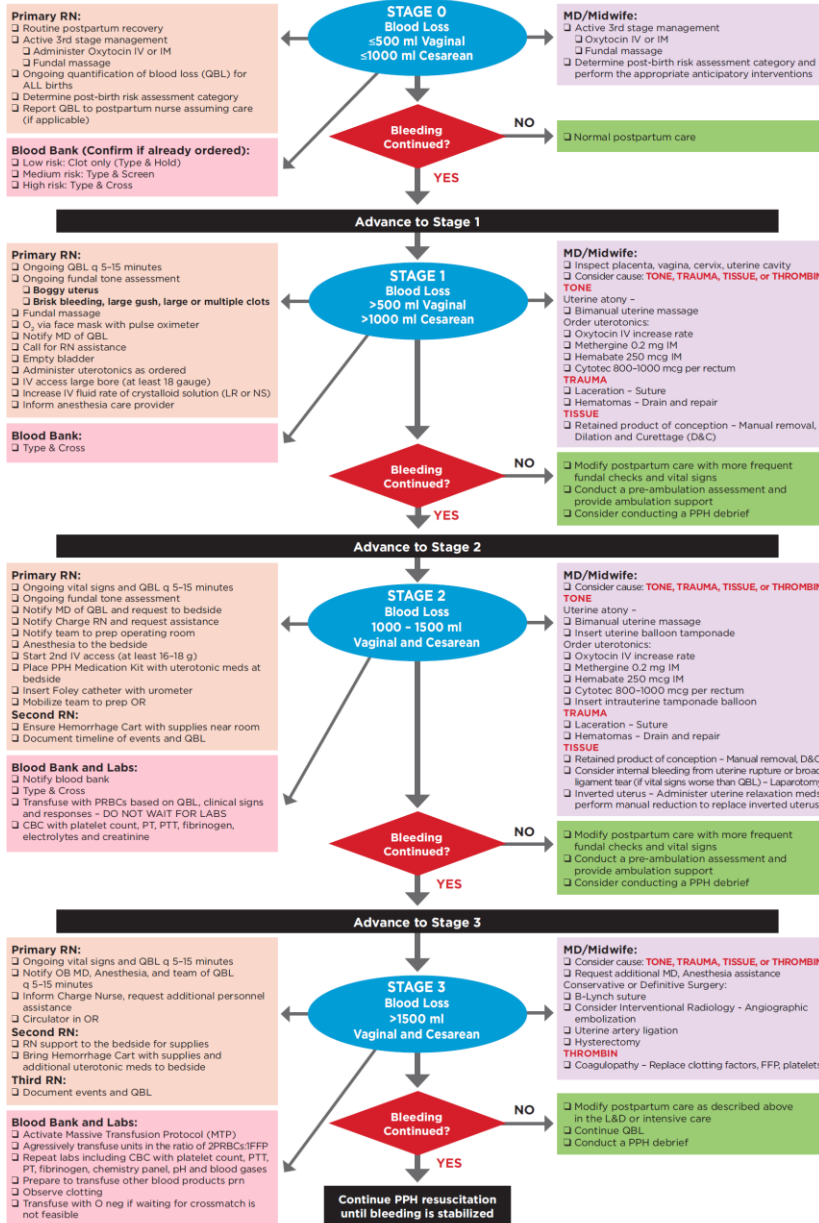
# CMQCC Algorithm



California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), Hemorrhage Taskforce (2009) visit: [www.CMQCC.org](http://www.CMQCC.org) for details. This project was supported by funds received from the State of California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division

Lyndon, A., Lagrew, D., Shields, L.E., Main, E., & Cape, V.. (2015). Improving health care response to obstetric hemorrhage. (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative Toolkit to Transform Maternity Care.

POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) STAGES ALGORITHM



Copyright 2014 by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. All rights reserved. AWHONN grants clinicians permission to duplicate this document for use in the clinical setting. Request for permission for all other uses should be directed to permissions@awhonn.org. The Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH) Stages Algorithm is a secondary and does not include all possible interventions or conditions. The PPH Stages Algorithm is designed to guide clinical decision-making but does not replace clinical judgment. Adapted from David Lagrew, MD, Audrey Lyndon, RNC, CNS, PhD, Elliott Hein, MD, Larry Shields, MD, Kathryn Mellopp, MS, Debra Bingham, RN, BPHN. Obstetric Hemorrhage Toolkit: Improving Health Care Response to Obstetric Hemorrhage. California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative Toolkit to Transform Maternity Care. Developed under contract #08-0902 with the California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division; Published by the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, June 2010.

# AWHONN's Algorithm

Get AWHONN's algorithm through their online education <http://learning.awhonn.org/>



# Stage 0 Hemorrhage

Definition:

≤500ml vaginal

≤1000ml cesarean

**Key Actions:**  
Active  
management of  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of  
labor

# Stage 1 Hemorrhage

## Definition:

>500ml vaginal

>1000ml cesarean

## Continued Bleeding?

## Key Actions:

Tone

Uterine massage

Uterine Tonics – IV

Oxytocin, Methergine

0.2mg IM, Hemabate

250 mcg IM, Cytotec

800-1000mcg per  
rectum

Trauma

Tissue or Thrombin

Modify PP care

Anticipatory plan

# Stage 2 Hemorrhage

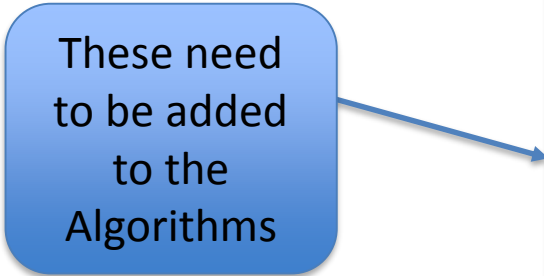
## Definition:

1000-1500ml

vaginal and cesarean

## Continued Bleeding?

These need  
to be added  
to the  
Algorithms



### Key Actions:

Tone

Uterine massage

Uterine Tonics – IV Oxytocin,  
Methergine 0.2mg IM, Hemabate  
250 mcg IM, Cytotect 800-

1000mcg per rectum Tamponade

Balloon

Begin Blood Transfusion

Trauma

Tissue or Thrombin

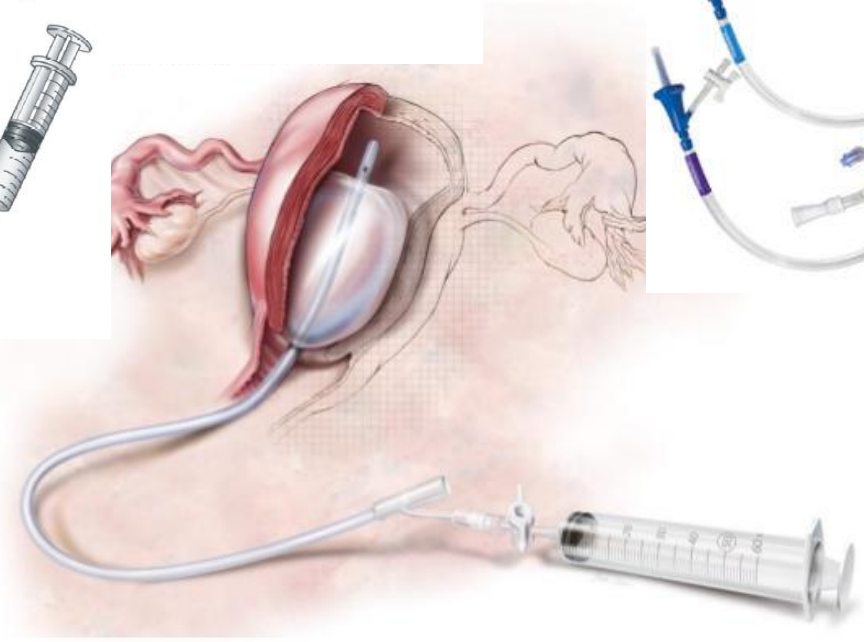
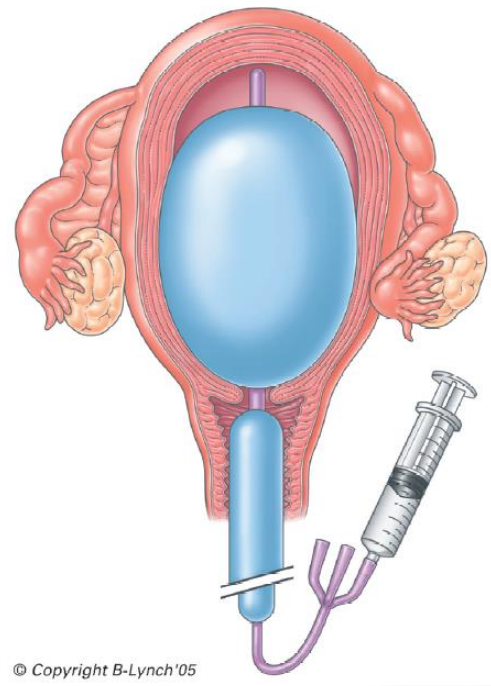
Modify PP care

PPH Debrief

Tranexamic Acid

Non-pneumatic Anti-Shock  
Garment (NASG)

# Uterine Balloons



# 3 Blood Transfusion Processes Every Nurse Needs to Know

- Routine Blood Transfusions
- Uncrossed Matched Blood
- Massive Transfusion Protocol

# Blood Transfusion

- Prevent hypothermia
- Transfuse quickly – start 2 IVs
- Sample Massive Transfusion Protocol:
  - 4 units PRBCs
  - 2 units FFP (thawed)
  - 1 platelet dose (either with every or every other cooler of 4 PRBCs/2FFP)
- Use type-specific blood whenever possible

# Tranexamic Acid (TXA)

- An inhibitor of fibrinolysis
- Reduces bleeding in the setting of coagulation abnormalities
- WOMAN trial showed a 30% reduction in the most severe hemorrhages when 1 gram of TXA was administered IV within 3 hours of the diagnosis of an OB Hemorrhage
  - In US we won't see such a large decrease in maternal mortality

WOMAN Trial Contributors. (April 2017). Effect of early tranexamic acid administration on mortality, hysterectomy, and other morbidities in women with post-partum hemorrhage (WMAN): an international, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*. [Http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)30638-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30638-4)

# Tranexamic Acid (TXA)

- National Guidance is Pending
- Add around Stage 2 Hemorrhage
  - When considering additional interventions, e.g., Hemabate or compression balloons
- Include in the OB hemorrhage medication kit
- Be cautious of medication confusion because this drug is neurotoxic





## Non-pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment

# Vital Signs



## Warning Signs:

- Systolic BP less than 90 mmHg
- Heart Rate greater than 120 bpm

## CAUTION!

- **Changes in Vital Signs are a late sign of deterioration**
- Do not wait for vital signs to deteriorate before treating
- The absence of abnormal vital signs does not rule out the possibility that significant hemorrhage has occurred.

# Stage 3 Hemorrhage

Definition:

>1500ml

vaginal and cesarean

**Continued Bleeding?**

**Repeat resuscitation  
until bleeding  
is stabilized**

Actions:

Tone, Trauma, Tissue

Additional MDs/RNs

B-Lynch suture

Angiographic embolization

Uterine artery ligation

Hysterectomy

Thrombin –Massive

Transfusion Protocol

Replace clotting factors

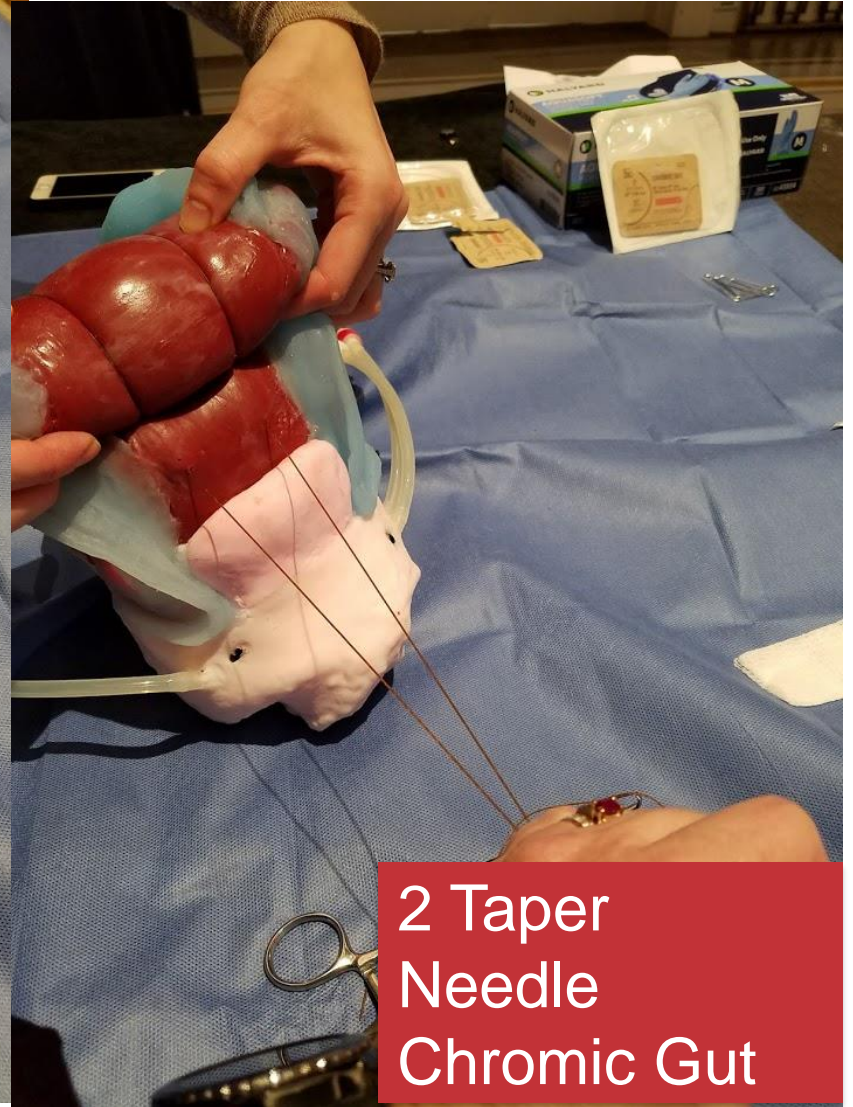
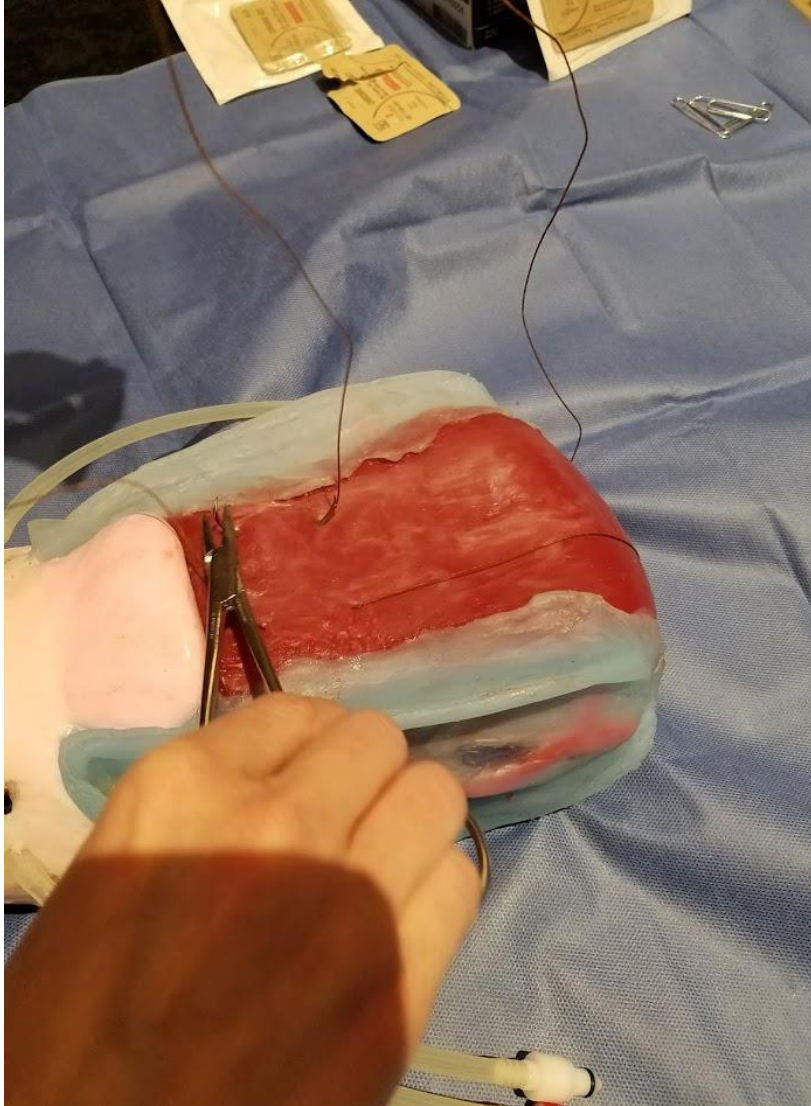
Coagulopathy FFP &

Platelets

Modify PP care

PPH Debrief

# B-Lynch Suture



2 Taper  
Needle  
Chromic Gut

# Reporting/Systems Learning (Every Unit)

Establish a culture of huddles and post-event debriefs to identify successes and opportunities.

Main, E.K., Goffman, D., Scavone, B.M., Low, L.K., Bingham, D., Gorlin, J.B., Lagrew, D.C., & Levy, B.S. (2015). National partnership for maternal safety: consensus bundle on hemorrhage. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*. pp. 1-10.

[www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org](http://www.safehealthcareforeverywoman.org)

# Example of a Debrief Tool

## IMMEDIATE FOCUSED POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE (PPH) DEBRIEF FORM

For quality improvement (QI) processes only.  
Follow hospital QI policies regarding recording the patient's name and medical record number.

Date of the event: \_\_\_\_\_

Form completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of event: Please check one.

Postpartum Hemorrhage  Stage 2  Stage 3

Description: A quick focused debrief immediately after an event helps capture important lessons learned and identify areas for needed improvement.

### Clinical Debrief Guidelines:

- Conduct a team debrief for ALL stage 2 or 3 postpartum hemorrhages and other emergencies as indicated.
- Empower all team members who cared for the patient to participate.
- Keep the debrief short, maximum of 15 minutes. Be as specific as possible.

- Conduct the debrief as soon possible once the patient is stabilized.
- The RN debrief leader should follow up with the family.
- Learn from debriefs by sharing what went well and any concerns.

Debrief Attendees: Indicate the number (#) of team members that attended the debriefing.

#	RN debrief attendees	#	Provider debrief attendees	#	Anesthesia and Pediatric debrief attendees (MD and RNs)	#	Support staff debrief attendees
	Primary RN		Primary MD (MFM, OB, FP)		Neonatology/Pediatrics MD		Unit Secretary/Clerk
	Nurse Manager or Supervisor		OB Resident(s)		Anesthesia Provider		OB Scrub/Surgical Tech
	Charge RN		Certified Nurse Midwife		NICU RN		Other Departments
	Other RN		Other		Other		Clergy or Social Worker

Overall Team Management: Check all that apply.

RECOGNITION				READINESS			
Risk and Hemorrhage Identification	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments	Resources and Equipment	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments
1. Were ongoing PPH risk assessments performed on admission, pre- and post-SART?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1. Was there adequate staffing on the unit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Was there prompt recognition of the emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2. Were necessary supplies and/or equipment available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				3. Were additional supplies and/or equipment readily accessible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	


RESPONSE							
Teamwork and Clinical Management	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments	Medications, Blood Loss, and Blood Administration	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments
1. Was the team mobilized in a timely manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1. Were the appropriate uterotonic medications given for the stage of hemorrhage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Were appropriate clinical decisions followed as per the hemorrhage policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2. Was blood loss directly measured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Were other interventions, e.g., balloons, B-Lynch suture utilized in a timely manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		3. Were blood products administered in a timely manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Was additional support requested and obtained in a timely manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		4. Were delays in blood availability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Team & Family Communication	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments	Additional Comments	Performed Well	Needs Improvement	Comments
1. Did team members communicate important or critical information to all team members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage of Labor

AWHONN and the Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care recommend oxytocin administration for management of the third stage of labor.

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses



**AWHONN**  
PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF  
WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

PRACTICE BRIEF

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH AND PERINATAL NURSES

NUMBER 2, MAY 2014  
(Updated October 2014)

**Guidelines for Oxytocin Administration after Birth**

**Recommendation:**  
AWHONN recommends oxytocin administration for management of third stage of labor for all births.

**Magnitude of the Problem**

- Each year, approximately 125,000 women in the United States (or 2.9% of all births) experience postpartum hemorrhage (Callaghan, Kuklina, & Berg, 2010).
- Every year there are 14 million cases of postpartum hemorrhage worldwide (United States Agency for International Development [USAID], 2010).

AWHONN (2015). Guidelines for oxytocin administration after birth. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*. 44, 161-163.

# Postpartum Oxytocin Administration Recommendations

- Administer IV oxytocin bolus followed by a total minimum infusion time of 4 hours after birth.
- High risk women will need longer
- Option 1:
  - Oxytocin 20 units in 1 liter normal saline or Lactated Ringer's solution
  - Initial **bolus** rate 1000 ml/hour for **30 minutes** (10units)
  - **Maintenance** rate of 125 ml/hour over **3.5 hours** (remaining 10 units)





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**TRACK**

— DBINGHAM@PERINATALQI.ORG — @PERINATALQI

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# Track Progress

- Structure
  - Update policies and procedures
  - Simulation drills
  - Educate clinical team
- Process
  - Quantification of Blood loss
  - Risk Assessments
- Outcomes – with Balancing Measures
  - ICU admission
  - Blood transfusions



Don't be afraid to look at your QI data.

Data helps us know what improvements are needed.

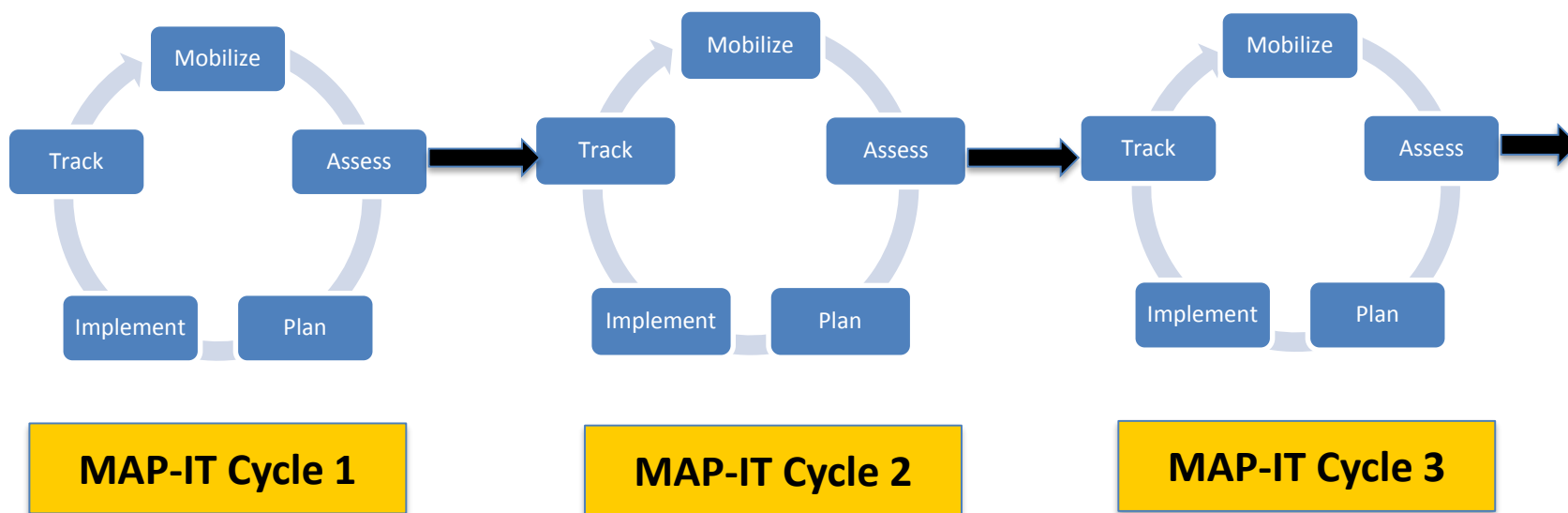


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**START MAP-IT  
OVER**

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Perform Small Tests of Change  
Learn then Adjust (as often as needed)



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Quality  
Improvement  
is like  
climbing a  
spiral  
staircase

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Without data QI  
leaders can go  
around &  
around in a  
circle like  
a cat  
chasing  
her tail



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Conference on February 1, 2018, New York City

Structural changes are the  
easiest changes to sustain

Dig a ditch and that is  
where water will flow

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