

Postpartum Hemorrhage Project

Fremont Health

Fremont, NE



Process of Identifying Need

- Postpartum hemorrhage is a leading cause of maternal mortality in the United States (AWHONN, 2017).
- Mothers were showing signs and symptoms related to blood loss, i.e. ringing in the ears, dizziness.
- Fremont Health joined an alliance with the Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care to implement best practice for postpartum hemorrhage.
- Record reviews identified variance in practice, treatment plan.
- Early intervention and standard treatment plan needed based on current evidence.

Process Improvement Methods

- Team Composed of: Nurse Manager-Physician Leader-Staff Members.
- PDSA - multiple cycles.
- Data collected via:
 - Record review.
 - Staff input.
 - Premier benchmark reports.
 - Blood Utilization criteria.

Results

- Reduced length of stay.
- Increased blood utilization but better stewards, more appropriate use.
- Collaboration, teamwork to implement, sustain, and continue to improve.
- Improving mom's postpartum experience via earlier recognition.

Lessons Learned

- Process Improvement does not depend on data alone!
 - High Reliability & the opportunity to establish best practice before the problem occurs.
- Vital to involve front line team members, key physician, nurse leader.
- Rely on PDSA cycles and small test of change to achieve performance improvement and compliance.
- Display, discuss outcome data to keep the project “alive” and maintain the gain.
- Sharing lessons learned internally and externally heightens professionalism and eagerness to begin additional performance improvement projects.