



3rd Annual Quality & Patient Safety Conference Improving the Healthcare Journey for Patients & Staff



TITLE

Introduction of a Labour Ward Huddle – a tool to improve situational awareness

SUBMITTED BY

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Being born can be a risky business! If you choose to birth in hospital – you deserve to do so in the safest place possible. The Rotunda Hospital had noted an increase in births in places other than labour ward or theatre, while this may be unavoidable due to rapid labour; access and capacity issues may impact by precluding prompt transfer between hospital departments.

METHODOLOGY

Plan-Do-Study-Act

AIM

To introduce a patient safety huddle to improve staff communication & patient flow through the antenatal, emergency room, delivery suite and postnatal wards.

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

In December 2020 (in the jaws of a pandemic!) we introduced a scripted, multidisciplinary safety huddle to improve situational awareness within and between clinical teams.

MEASUREMENT

An online survey was disseminated to 58 people from a range of disciplines to seek feedback on experience and impact of multidisciplinary huddle

RESULTS

Multidisciplinary engagement was excellent from the start. There was strong agreement that: introduction of huddles ensures efficient communication between wards and has improved patient safety and that the safety huddle should take place 7 days a week. Feedback also recommended formal inclusion of anaesthesia and neonatology teams.

The script evolved to include updates on ongoing hospital and labour ward building works, and also to include updates on need for isolation facilities for women with Covid 19.

VALUE

The Rotunda is now the busiest maternity hospital in the state, with an increasing birthrate in 2021 compared with 2020. Enhanced communication within and between hospital teams remains key and builds team spirit. The safety huddle has enhanced communication and ultimately will optimise safety, efficiency and efficacy of patient care.

SUSTAINMENT

This multidisciplinary safety huddle is now an embedded component of the daily Rotunda schedule, with colleagues from anaesthesia and neonatology now included. Introduction of a limited nightly huddle is also in progress.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

While it remains a challenge to offer 21st Century care in a building established in the 18th Century, multidisciplinary, interdepartmental safety huddles are popular and contribute to enhanced communication between teams delivering obstetric and midwifery care.