

Effective Care Transitions in Maternity Care



**MATERNITY CARE EDUCATION
& PRACTICE REDESIGN**



AMERICAN COLLEGE[®]
of NURSE-MIDWIVES



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Learning Objectives

- Identify key principles of team based health care
- Apply best practices in care transitions
- Integrate concepts of situational awareness, monitoring and leadership to clinical scenarios



Background

- Fragmented care
- Lack of use of shared communication tools
- Communication failure
- Poor outcomes



Team Based Care Principles

Team based care principles

- Shared goals
- Clear roles
- Mutual trust
- Effective communication
- Measurable outcomes
- Situational monitoring, awareness, and leadership
 - Definitions
 - Application
 - Barriers



Care Transitions

Care transitions

- Between providers
- Between and within care settings

Potential risks during transitions of care

- Incomplete or incorrect communication of information
- Loss of woman's and family's preferences
- Distrust between providers or between client and providers
- Decreased client safety and/or satisfaction

Care Transition Situations

- Unit Transfer
- Scope of Practice
- Patient Acuity
- Patient Request
- Shift change
- Others?

Best Practices During Transitions of Care

1. Communication should include the woman and family as integral team members
2. Use a structured communication tool within team
 - IPASS
 - SBAR
3. Equal participation of care transition team
4. Standardized protocols

What is IPASS?

- Introduction
 - Introduce yourself and your role/job (include patient)
- Patient
 - Identifiers, age, sex, location
- Assessment
 - Present chief complaint, vital signs, symptoms, and diagnosis
- Situation
 - Current status/circumstances, including code status, level of uncertainty, recent changes, and response to treatment
- Safety
 - Critical lab values/reports, socioeconomic factors, allergies, and alerts (falls, isolation, etc.)

IPASS Example

OB-gyn to Midwife

I: Hi, Gina, I am Pauline, an OB-gyn here, taking care of Trisha Ortiz in room 202

P: Trisha is a 32 y.o. G1P0 female who is here in latent labor.

A: She had an uncomplicated pregnancy course. She is currently here in latent/early labor. She's 3cm dilated/80% effaced/ -2 station. Vital signs are stable. Vertex presentation confirmed with bedside ultrasound. She is low risk and using intermittent auscultation for fetal monitoring.

S: Trisha is experiencing significant back pain during contractions. She would like an unmedicated birth, but is having difficulty coping due to the back labor. She has tried position changes and hydrotherapy with minimal relief.

S: There are no concerns for safety at this time.

What would you recommend for alleviation of back labor?



What is SBAR?

- **Situation**
 - What is happening with the patient?
- **Background**
 - What is the clinical background?
- **Assessment**
 - What do I think the problem is?
- **Recommendation**
 - What would I recommend?



(TeamSTEPPS, 2019)

SBAR Example

Midwife to OB-gyn

S: Lena Jones is a 29 yo G1P0 at 40 weeks who was admitted last night in active labor. She progressed to complete and has been pushing for 3 hours with good effort, but there has been minimal fetal descent.

B: She had an uncomplicated pregnancy course. Since arriving to L&D she's had a Category I FHR tracing w/ intermittent early decelerations. Membranes have been ruptured for 10 hours, clear fluid. She's comfortable with an epidural but has not been pushing effectively.

A: Arrest of descent

R: I recommend transfer of care to your service for evaluation of operative delivery versus cesarean delivery.



Benefits of Structured Communication Tools

- Shared Mental Model
- Adaptability
- Team Orientation
- Mutual Trust
- Team Performance
- Patient Safety



(TeamSTEPPS, 2019)

Opportunities for Improvement

- Learners can be asked to share personal examples of practice experience where a structured communication tool would have improved communication.

Utilization of Tools in Practice

- Additional references and examples for handoffs (IPASS, SBAR, etc.) and care transition communication tools can be found:
 - Team STEPPS 2.0 [website](#)
 - Team STEPPS 2.0 [phone app](#) (available on android & apple) - FREE!



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