



Hospital Quick Tips for Improvement

Severe Maternal Morbidity, Maternal Hemorrhage, & Severe Maternal Hypertension

Severe Maternal Morbidity



Implement a [Maternal Early Warning System \(MEWS\)](#) to recognize and respond to mothers with deteriorating conditions.^{1,2}



Integrate severe maternal morbidity patient safety [simulation and drills](#) at your hospital.³

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine recommend reviewing cases with transfusion of 4 or more units of blood and any admission of a pregnant or postpartum woman to an ICU or any occurrence of unexpected and severe medical events in pregnant or postpartum women (at facility's discretion).²



Join the SCBOI Quality and Patient Safety Workgroup monthly meetings to connect with other clinicians, educators, and hospital administrators working to reduce SMM. Workgroup meeting information is found [here](#).



Implement core AIM patient safety bundles at your hospital which focus on obstetric hemorrhage, severe hypertension in pregnancy, safe reduction of primary cesarean birth, cardiac conditions in obstetrical care, care for pregnant and postpartum people with substance use disorder, postpartum discharge transition, sepsis in obstetrical care, and perinatal mental health conditions. Learn more [here](#).⁴



To understand the impact of patient safety bundles on reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, watch this [video](#) of Jamie's story.⁵

SOURCES

- 1 The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Maternal Early Warning Systems (MEWS) eModule. Retrieved from <https://saferbirth.org/aim-resources/maternal-early-warning-criteria/>.
- 2 The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. 2016, September (reaffirmed 2021). Severe Maternal Morbidity: Screening and Review. Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Obstetric-Care-Consensus-Series/Severe-Maternal-Morbidity-Screening-and-Review?isMobileSet=false>.
- 3 The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Simulation and Drills for Patient Safety. Retrieved from <https://saferbirth.org/aim-resources/aim-cornerstones/simulations>.
- 4 The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. Core AIM Patient Safety Bundles. Retrieved from <https://safehealthcareforeverywoman.org/aim/patient-safety-bundles/>.
- 5 The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. Voices of Impact: Jamie's Story. Retrieved from <https://saferbirth.org/resources/voices-of-impact-jamies-story/>.

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Severe Maternal Morbidity, Maternal Hemorrhage, & Severe Maternal Hypertension (continued)

Maternal Hemorrhage

Maternal hemorrhage is a direct cause of maternal morbidity and mortality.^{6,7}

A blood loss threshold of >500ml should be considered regardless of mode of delivery.⁸ Likewise, tracking blood transfusion side-by-side is needed,⁴ but should not count against clinical quality.^{9,10}



Using the SCBOI OB Hemorrhage [tools](#) to develop a comprehensive plan for evaluating and managing maternal hemorrhage at birthing facilities is recommended.¹¹



SC AIM began implementing the OB Hemorrhage Patient Safety Bundle in September 2021. Get the newly revised version [here](#).¹²

Severe Maternal Hypertension

Maternal preeclampsia is a leading cause of maternal morbidity & mortality, prematurity, placental abruption, and low birthweight.^{13,14}



To support your hospital in the early recognition/management of preeclampsia, SCBOI has provided the [Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle](#).¹⁵



The Access and Care Coordination Workgroup is addressing chronic disease management to address some of the preventive interventions that may decrease severe hypertension. Consider attending a [meeting](#) to learn more.



Include the ED in hospital protocol and notify patients of warning signs prior to discharge.^{16,17} Some hospitals even have postpartum mothers wear bracelets that notify ED personnel to treat immediately.¹⁸



AIM's newly revised Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy [bundle](#) provides additional printable information and e-modules.¹⁹

SOURCES

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- 7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pregnancy-mortality-surveillance-system.htm>.
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- 9 Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. (2022). AIM Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) Data Alert for Blood Transfusions. Retrieved from https://saferbirth.org/wp-content/uploads/AIM-SMM-Data-Alert-Blood-Transfusions_January2021.pdf.
- 10 The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstetric Hemorrhage Bundle. Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Districts/District-II/SMI-OB-Hemorrhage>.
- 11 SC Healthy Connections Medicaid. (2018). OB Hemorrhage Bundle. Retrieved from <https://www.scdhhs.gov/site-page/ob-hemorrhage-bundle>.
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- 13 GBD 2015 Maternal Mortality Collaborators. (2017). Global, regional, and national levels of maternal mortality, 1990-2015: A systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015. *Lancet*, 8(388): 1775-1812. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27733286>.
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- 19 The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Maternal Patient Safety bundles. Severe hypertension in pregnancy. Retrieved from <https://saferbirth.org/psbs/severe-hypertension-in-pregnancy/>.