

Can TeamBirth Improve Communication During Labor ?

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Background

- Women giving birth today are 50% more likely to die during childbirth than their mothers.
- Half of women reported holding back from asking questions or sharing concerns during their pregnancy or delivery.
- The top reasons include not wanting to make a big deal, feeling embarrassed to talk about their issues and thinking their healthcare provider would consider them difficult.
- Eighty to ninety percent of reported sentinel events are due to failure in communication and teamwork.

Objectives

- TeamBirth aims to increase communication during childbirth.
- From the moment a patient is admitted to labor and delivery until they are discharged from postpartum, they will join their care team in shared huddles
- The two principles of TeamBirth are teamwork and simplicity.

Methods

- Two core interventions are needed to make TeamBirth successful:
 - Shared Huddles
 - Shared Planning Boards
- Shared huddles are brief team meetings held in the patient's room and occur at a minimum during admission, when there are changes in the care plan, when clinical decisions need to be made, or at the request of any team member.
- Example of Shared Planning Board:

Room #:	Date:	Weeks:
Team:		Plan:
Birthing Person:		Baby:
Preferences:		Progress:
Notes:		Next Huddle:

References



Discussion

- Healthcare workers who participate in collaborative and communicative models, such as TeamBirth, reduce stress by clarifying roles, improving workflow, and ensuring that every team member, including the nurse, is heard in the decision-making process.
- Nine out of ten mothers who experienced a TeamBirth delivery said that they felt involved in decisions, informed and educated about their options, and that their choices were respected.
- Ninety percent of clinicians would recommend TeamBirth.
- As of 2022, TeamBirth has been implemented at 16 health systems across the U.S., with many more beginning implementations.

Conclusion

- TeamBirth can be an end-game intervention to obtain respectful maternity care.
- TeamBirth is a communication and teamwork process that closes gaps in communication that challenge the safety and dignity of people giving birth.