

## READINESS

### *Every Unit*

- Standards for early warning signs, diagnostic criteria, monitoring and treatment of severe preeclampsia/eclampsia (include order sets and algorithms)
- Unit education on protocols, unit-based drills (with post-drill debriefs)
- Process for timely triage and evaluation of pregnant and postpartum women with hypertension including ED and outpatient areas
- Rapid access to medications used for severe hypertension/eclampsia: Medications should be stocked and immediately available on L&D and in other areas where patients may be treated. Include brief guide for administration and dosage.
- System plan for escalation, obtaining appropriate consultation, and maternal transport, as needed

## RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

### *Every Patient*

- Standard protocol for measurement and assessment of BP and urine protein for all pregnant and postpartum women
- Standard response to maternal early warning signs including listening to and investigating patient symptoms and assessment of labs (e.g. CBC with platelets, AST and ALT)
- Facility-wide standards for educating prenatal and postpartum women on signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia

# Hypertension

Standardization of health care processes and reduced variation has been shown to improve outcomes and quality of care. The Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care disseminates patient safety bundles to help facilitate the standardization process. This bundle reflects emerging clinical, scientific, and patient safety advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. The information should not be construed as dictating an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed. Although the components of a particular bundle may be adapted to local resources, standardization within an institution is strongly encouraged.

The Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care is a broad consortium of organizations across the spectrum of women's health for the promotion of safe health care for every woman.

## RESPONSE

Every case of severe hypertension/preeclampsia

- Facility-wide standard protocols with checklists and escalation policies for management and treatment of:
  - Severe hypertension
  - Eclampsia, seizure prophylaxis, and magnesium over-dosage
  - Postpartum presentation of severe hypertension/preeclampsia
- Minimum requirements for protocol:
  - Notification of physician or primary care provider if systolic BP  $\geq$  160 or diastolic BP  $\geq$  110 for two measurements within 15 minutes
  - After the second elevated reading, treatment should be initiated ASAP (preferably within 60 minutes of verification)
  - Includes onset and duration of magnesium sulfate therapy
  - Includes escalation measures for those unresponsive to standard treatment
  - Describes manner and verification of follow-up within 7 to 14 days postpartum
  - Describe postpartum patient education for women with preeclampsia
- Support plan for patients, families, and staff for ICU admissions and serious complications of severe hypertension

## REPORTING/SYSTEMS LEARNING

Every unit

- Establish a culture of huddles for high risk patients and post-event debriefs to identify successes and opportunities
- Multidisciplinary review of all severe hypertension/eclampsia cases admitted to ICU for systems issues
- Monitor outcomes and process metrics

*Note: "Facility-wide" indicates all areas where pregnant or postpartum women receive care. (E.g. L&D, postpartum critical care, emergency department, and others depending on the facility).*

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