

Driver 3: Response

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Global Aim: Improve maternal health through hospital-facilitated timely recognition and treatment of obstetric hemorrhage during labor, delivery and the postpartum period.

Primary Key Driver

Response: Management for every pregnant or PP woman w/ OB hemorrhage

****Respectful care is a universal component of every driver and activity***

Secondary Drivers

Use a standardized, facility-wide, stage-based, OB hemorrhage emergency management plan with checklists and escalation policies

Debrief and Huddle

Provide trauma-informed support for patients, their support network, and staff for all OB hemorrhages, including debriefs, follow-up, resources, and appointments

Use a standardized, facility-wide, stage-based, OB hemorrhage emergency management plan with checklists and escalation policies

Potentially Better Practices: Standardized OB Hemorrhage Emergency Management Plan

1. Facility-Wide Protocol:

- Use a stage-based, checklist-driven plan with escalation policies
- Activate OB rapid response team at Stage 2 or greater

2. Interventions:

- Administer evidence-based medications
- Perform pelvic exam; consider vacuum-induced or tamponade hemorrhage control devices if bleeding persists
- Include surgical options, trauma team, and/or interventional radiology if bleeding continues

Use a standardized, facility wide, stage-based, OB hemorrhage emergency management plan with checklists and escalation policies

Potentially Better Practices (cont.):

3. Pain & Monitoring:

- Use a standardized pain assessment tool
- Evaluate atypical pain for signs of concealed bleeding
- Monitor closely after stabilization and/or transfer

4. Clinical Considerations:

- Apply 4 Ts framework: Tone, Trauma, Tissue, Thrombin
- Stabilize and transfer if patient's needs exceed facility resources*



Resource Examples

Expert Review

Intrauterine devices in the management of postpartum hemorrhage

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Obstetrical hemorrhage is a relatively frequent obstetrical complication and a common cause of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide. The majority of maternal deaths attributable to hemorrhage are preventable, thus, developing rapid and effective means of treating postpartum hemorrhage is of critical public health importance. Intrauterine devices are one option for managing refractory hemorrhage, with rapid expansion of devices being one option for managing refractory hemorrhage, with rapid expansion of devices being one option for managing refractory hemorrhage, with rapid expansion of devices being one option for managing refractory hemorrhage.

Key words: antihemorrhagic intervention, blood loss, intrauterine vacuum device, maternal morbidity, obstetrical hemorrhage, obstetrics, postpartum hemorrhage, pregnancy complication, uterine atony, uterine balloon tamponade, intrauterine packing, Bakri, Jada, Elawi, ebb, BT-Cath, Suction tube uterine tamponade

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Background

Background Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is a common complication, affecting up to 5% of births, and is a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide.^{1–4} In low- and middle-income nations where the majority of maternal deaths occur, more than 30% of maternal deaths are attributable to hemorrhage.⁴ However, PPH also remains problematic in high-resource settings, including the United States, where hemorrhage accounted for 12.1% of maternal deaths from 2017 to 2019.⁵ Furthermore, the rate of PPH is increasing and the majority of deaths caused by PPH are considered to be preventable.^{6–9} Thus, ensuring mechanisms to rapidly and effectively treat PPH is a critically important public health priority.

Although there are multiple potential PPH etiologies, 70% to 80% are associated with uterine atony.⁸ Second-line therapies for refractory hemorrhage caused by atony traditionally include a uterine balloon tamponade (UBT), manual compression maneuvers, interventional radiology procedures, and nonpneumatic antishock garments before operative intervention methods are considered.^{1,9,10} There has been a recent expansion of UBT devices, and the new development of intrauterine vacuum devices present an alternative (Table). Given the recent change in technology available to manage refractory PPH, the purpose of this review was to provide a summary of the existing devices and their supporting data.

Rationale for tamponade techniques

Tamponade techniques have been used as second-line therapy for atony-related PPH before surgical intervention, typically with packing or a balloon completely filling the atonic uterine cavity to apply pressure to the bleeding myometrium. There are two theories

AJOG Expert Review on Intrauterine Devices

ACOG Massive Transfusion Protocol

BLOOD BANK:

Massive Transfusion Protocol (MTP)

- Have a minimum of 4 units of 2000 cc of blood

- Have a minimum of 4 units of O-negative PRBCs
 - Have the ability to obtain 6 units PRBCs & 4 units FFP (compatible or type specific) for a bleeding patient
 - Have a mechanism in place to obtain platelets & additional products in a timely fashion
- Blood transfusion or crossmatching should not be used as a negative quality marker & is warranted for certain obstetric events.**

Blood transfusion or crossmatching should not be used as a negative quality marker & is warranted for certain obstetric events.

① Patient currently bleeding & at risk for uncontrollable bleeding

- Activate MTP — call (ADD NUMBER) & say "activate massive transfusion protocol"
- Nursing/Anesthesia draw stat labs
 - type & crossmatch
 - hemoglobin & platelets count, PT (INR)/PTT, fibrinogen, & ABG (as needed)

② Immediate need for transfusion
(type & crossmatch not yet available)

- Give 2-4 units O-negative PRBCs
"OB EMERGENCY RELEASE"

2 ANTICIPATE ONGOING MASSIVE BLOOD NEEDS

- A Obtain massive transfusion pack
 - Consider using coolers
- B Administer as needed in a 6:4:1 ratio
 - 6 units PRBCs
 - 4 units FFP
 - 1 apheresis pack of platelets

4 INITIAL LAB RESULTS

- Normal → anticipate ongoing bleeding → repeat massive transfusion pack → bleeding controlled → deactivate MTP
- Abnormal → repeat massive transfusion pack → repeat labs → consider cryoprecipitate and consultation for alternative coagulation agents (Prothrombin Complex Concentrate [PCC], recombinant Factor VIIa, tranexamic acid)

IMPORTANT PROTOCOL ITEMS TO BE DETERMINED AT EACH INSTITUTION:

- How to activate MTP;

- How to activate MTP;

- Blood bank # & location; notify ASAP;

- * Emergency release protocol that both blood bank staff & ordering parties (MD/RN/CNM) understand:

- How will blood be brought to LAD?

- How will additional blood products/platelets be obtained?

- Mechanism for obtaining serial labs, such as with each transfusion pack, to ensure transfusion targets achieved:

Safe Motherhood Initiative

Revised January 2019



Debrief and Huddle

Potentially Better Practices: A standardized formal debrief process for OB hemorrhage

1. When to Debrief:

- After resolution of acute hemorrhage
- At time of transfer to postpartum or other unit to reassess and communicate hemorrhage risk

2. How to Debrief:

- Conduct timely debriefs with provider, patient/family, and nursing staff
- Use a standardized checklist to guide unit discussions and identify improvement areas

3. Follow-Up:

- Refer qualifying cases to quality/peer review per organizational criteria
- Evaluate team performance and response effectiveness

Resource Examples

Team Debriefing Form

Person Completing Form:	Title:	Date of Emergency/Drill:
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Staff who Participated in the Emergency/Drill

Staff Name	Role	Staff Name	Role

Time Clinical Emergency/Scenario Commenced:	Time Clinical Emergency/Scenario Concluded:	Length of Time:
---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	-----------------

Type of Clinical Emergency/Drill:	Recognition	Readiness
Obstetrical/Neonatal Emergency: <input type="checkbox"/> Code Blue <input type="checkbox"/> ED/OB Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> ED/OB/OR Trauma <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency airway (Neonatal) <input type="checkbox"/> Neonatal Resuscitation <input type="checkbox"/> Postpartum Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/> Prolapsed Cord <input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis (maternal) <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder Dystocia <input type="checkbox"/> Uterine Rupture <input type="checkbox"/> Malignant hyperthermia <input type="checkbox"/> Anaphylactoid syndrome of pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Htn <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Describe the Emergency/Scenario:	<input type="checkbox"/> Was there prompt recognition of the emergency/drill (Code blue/Pink called)? Hemorrhage <input type="checkbox"/> PPH risk assessments performed per protocol? HTN <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated BP confirmed with manual cuff? Sepsis <input type="checkbox"/> Oral temp < 96.8°F (36°C) or ≥ 100.4°F (38°C)? <input type="checkbox"/> HR > 110 bpm for ≥ 15 minutes? <input type="checkbox"/> RR > 24 bpm ≥ 15 minutes? Uterine Rupture <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of fetal station <input type="checkbox"/> Acute abdominal pain (severe/persistent) Malignant Hyperthermia <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle rigidity <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated end-tidal CO ₂ <input type="checkbox"/> Hyperthermia	<input type="checkbox"/> Was there adequate staffing on the unit? <input type="checkbox"/> Was additional emergency staff alerted as required? <input type="checkbox"/> Did all staff have adequate clinical knowledge of emergency/scenario and treatment required? <input type="checkbox"/> Did all staff know how to access the emergency equipment? <input type="checkbox"/> Was the emergency equipment in working condition?

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AWHONN Sample Team Debriefing Form

ACOG Obstetric Team Debriefing Form

Remember: Debriefing is meant to be a learning experience and a way to address both human factors and systems issues to improve the response for next time. There is to be no blaming/finger-pointing.

Type of event: _____ Date of event: _____
Location of event: _____

Members of team present: (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Primary RN	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary MD	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge RN	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Anesthesia personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Neonatology personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> MFM leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient Safety Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> OB/Surgical tech	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/> Other RNs

Thinking about how the obstetric emergency was managed,

Identify what went well: (Check if yes)

☐ Communication

☐ Role clarity (leader/supporting roles identified and assigned)

☐ Teamwork

☐ Situational awareness

☐ Decision-making

☐ Other: _____

Identify opportunities for improvement: "human factors" (Check if yes)

☐ Communication

☐ Role clarity (leader/supporting roles identified and assigned)

☐ Teamwork

☐ Situational awareness

☐ Decision-making

☐ Other: _____

Identify opportunities for improvement: "systems issue" (Check if yes)

☐ Equipment

☐ Medication

☐ Blood product availability


☐ Inadequate support (in unit or other areas of the hospital)

☐ Delays in transporting the patient (within hospital or to another facility)

☐ Other: _____

Safe Motherhood Initiative

Revised March 2019



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Committee B



Trauma-Informed Debrief & Multidisciplinary Review

Healing After an Adverse Event

Care Team	Patient and Support Network
Real time clinical debrief	Short interval post event debrief
Collaborative documentation review	Ongoing conversation and care team accessibility for questions
Peer support	Emotional support team member connection (e.g. social worker, chaplain, psychiatry, psychology)
Emotional support debrief	Referral to resources (e.g., community resources)
Referral to resources	Short interval contact post discharge

Adapted from ACOG District II Safe Motherhood Initiative

Provide trauma-informed support for patients, their support network, and staff for all OB hemorrhages, including debriefs, follow-up, resources, and appointments

Potentially Better Practices: Trauma-Informed Support for OB Hemorrhage

1. Respectful, Clear Communication:

- Explain clinical concerns and management plans before any physical interventions
- Use qualified interpreters for patients and support network when needed

2. Real-Time and Ongoing Support:

- Assign a liaison to update the patient and support network during emergencies
- Include this communication in emergency checklists

Provide trauma-informed support for patients, their support network, and staff for all OB hemorrhages, including debriefs, follow-up, resources, and appointments

Potentially Better Practices (cont.):

3. Post-Hemorrhage Follow-Up:

- Provide a written summary of the event to the patient and family
- Conduct debrief with provider, RN, and patient/support network in a private setting
- Support infant feeding preferences during recovery

4. Mental Health & Well-Being:

- Screen for postpartum depression and PTSD
- Refer to appropriate behavioral health resources as needed

Resource Examples

The SHARE Approach



AHRQ's SHARE Approach is a clinician-led shared decision-making model with five essential elements for meaningful dialogue with patients exploring benefits, harms, and risks of options and what matters most to them. AHRQ offers a free workshop curriculum to train clinicians in skills and techniques to work with patients to make the best possible healthcare decisions.

AHRQ Share Approach

AWHONN POST-BIRTH Warning Signs

SAVE YOUR LIFE:

Call 911 if you have:

- ☐ Pain in chest
- ☐ Obstructed breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ Seizures
- ☐ Thoughts of hurting yourself or someone else

Get Care for These POST-BIRTH Warning Signs

Most women who give birth recover without problems. But any woman can have complications after giving birth. Learning to recognize these POST-BIRTH warning signs and knowing what to do can save your life.

Call your healthcare provider if you have:
(If you can't reach your healthcare provider, call 911 or go to an emergency room)

- ☐ Bleeding, soaking through one pad/hour, or blood clots, the size of an egg or bigger
- ☐ Incision that is not healing
- ☐ Red or swollen leg, that is painful or warm to touch
- ☐ Temperature of 100.4°F or higher
- ☐ Headache that does not get better, even after taking medicine, or bad headache with vision changes

Trust your instincts. ALWAYS get medical care if you are not feeling well or have questions or concerns.

Tell 911 or your healthcare provider:

"I gave birth on _____ (Date) and I am having _____ (Specific warning signs)"

These post-birth warning signs can become life-threatening if you don't receive medical care right away because:

- Pain in chest, obstructed breathing or shortness of breath (trouble catching your breath) may mean you have a blood clot in your lung or a heart problem
- Seizures may mean you have a condition called eclampsia
- Thoughts or feelings of wanting to hurt yourself or someone else may mean you have postpartum depression
- Bleeding (heavy), soaking more than one pad in an hour or passing an egg-sized clot or bigger may mean you have an obstetric hemorrhage
- Incision that is not healing, increased redness or any pus from episiotomy or C-section site may mean you have an infection
- Redness, swelling, warmth, or pain in the calf area of your leg may mean you have a blood clot
- Temperature of 100.4°F or higher, bad smelling vaginal blood or discharge may mean you have an infection
- Headache (very painful), vision changes, or pain in the upper right area of your belly may mean you have high blood pressure or post-birth preeclampsia

GET HELP

My Healthcare Provider/Clinic: _____ Phone Number: _____
Hospital Closest To Me: _____

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PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND NEW BORN

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Any Questions?