

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Neonatal Death

Summary:

A gravida 2 Para 1 (giving birth for the second time) patient was admitted to an acute care centre at 0448h. Due to fetal bradycardia (low heart rate) and breech presentation (buttocks first), the patient underwent an emergency Cesarean Section (C-section). Following the C-Section (birth time noted as 0841h), the neonate had depressed apgar scores. The neonate was transferred to a tertiary care facility and passed away. The event was reviewed given the adverse outcome to the neonate

Keywords:

Neonatal death, Obstetrics, Labour and Delivery

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Obstetrics, Labour and Delivery

Findings of the Review:

Differing definitions of the urgency of the c-section and the lack of expressive/receptive communication regarding the urgency of the event decreased the likelihood that the communication regarding the urgency of the C-section would be relayed to the operating room team in a timely manner.

The lack of fetal heart rate monitoring during OR prep and during transfer to the OR may have increased the likelihood that the possible compromised condition of the neonate may go unrecognized prior to the C-Section.

System Learning:

Continue to educate obstetrical staff and physicians regarding the clarity of the communication/documentation in urgent/emergent situations where action is required with the OR team. (i.e. using mock codes, SBAR communication tool)

Implement a process to maintain fetal heart rate monitoring as close to “cut time” in a C-section as possible in a fetus showing signs of a compromised condition

Develop a guideline indicating the standard type of language to be used to communicate the urgency of C-sections.

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