

# **A Quality Improvement Project: Improving Nurse Proficiency in Quantitative Blood Loss Measurement**

Ashley B. Dalgarno, RN, BSN, DNP-DNP Student

## **Abstract**

**Background:** Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal death in the United States. Risk factors such as obesity and hypertension increase the risk of postpartum maternal hemorrhage. Experts believe most cases of PPH are preventable.

**Problem:** At PeaceHealth St. John Hospital (PHSJ), the current practice of visually estimating blood loss is inaccurate and will often result in a delayed response to hemorrhage. The recommended use of quantitative blood loss measurement has been started on the Labor and Delivery Unit, but with no clinical educator, nurses are not adequately trained in the practice.

**Methods:** The QI intervention took place in a 14-bed labor and delivery unit, following the framework recommendation of the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWOHNN) Postpartum Hemorrhage Project.

**Intervention:** A PowerPoint (PPT) education module regarding QBL protocol, PPH review and equipment was presented to all Registered Nurses employed on the Labor and Delivery Unit. A pre- and post-education survey was sent to unit nurses to evaluate learning.

**Results:** Responses to the pre- and post-education surveys indicated nurses strongly perceived increased knowledge of QBL protocols after viewing the educational PPT. The QBL protocol along with other preemptive practices decreased maternal morbidity related to hemorrhage from 25.9% to an average of 15.5%.

**Conclusions:** The success of the quality improvement project was an example of how using evidence-based practice and recommendations from guiding organizations can improve patient outcomes.