Improving Disaster Triaging for Obstetric Inpatients
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Introduction

- Perinatal women experience poor maternal outcomes during natural disasters.1,3
- The majority of available OB-triage tools are utilized in the prehospital setting or at the time of hospital admission.2
- OBTRAIN (Obstetric Triage by Resource Allocation for Inpatient) uses rapid assessment and color-coded tagging to determine the most appropriate transport mode for evacuation1,3
- Disaster planning involving an OB-specific triage algorithm, advanced knowledge of the levels of maternity care (LOMC) classifications, and established disaster roles can facilitate a safe and rapid response.1,3

Purpose

Purpose: To improve OB disaster planning at Waverly Health Center (WHC) by implementing an OB-disaster triage toolkit.

Objectives:
1. Decrease per patient triage time by 50% by utilizing the OBTRAIN algorithm.
2. Increase staff satisfaction of the OB-disaster triage process.
3. Increase OB staff members’ recognition of roles & responsibilities in managing a disaster event.
4. Increase OB staff knowledge of the LOMC classifications for various potential transfer hospitals.

Methods

- Project deemed not human subject research & approved by WHC Ethics Committee
- Setting: WHC L&D Unit
- Population: OB providers, nurses, & maternal inpatients
- Measures: recorded triage time & pre- & post-implementation surveys

Key Components of an OB-Specific Disaster Toolkit

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**Evaluation**

- Triage time per maternal patient decreased 88%.
- Staff satisfaction of the OB-triage process tripled.
- Disaster role recognition and ability to classify nearby transfer hospitals LOMC significantly increased by 76% and 64%, respectively.
- Challenges: COVID19 restrictions hindered in-person gatherings and travel to project site. Virtual education & training provided for safe, cost-effective, & a convenient alternative during a global pandemic.

**Conclusions**

- Obstetric patients are a uniquely vulnerable demographic that may benefit from a disaster response plan that specifically addresses their needs to provide optimal care.
- This project has the potential to safeguard the OB population, serve as a model for future quality initiatives, & advance the role of nurses as leaders in disaster response.
- Future efforts will aim to implement the toolkit across other rural maternity hospitals & assess the effectiveness of these mitigation strategies to minimize OB-patient morbidity & mortality.
- This project will be presented virtually at the Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists Spring 2021 Conference.

**References**


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