



GE Healthcare

Evidence-based early-warning protocols in obstetrics



About Frederick Memorial Hospital

Frederick Memorial Hospital is part of the leading regional health system in Frederick County, Maryland. As part of Frederick Regional Health System, the hospital includes a wide network of partners and clinical specialties. With 233 licensed beds, it employs nearly 2,700 employees, and its reputation for delivering the highest quality of care has earned it numerous accreditations and recognition.



An inside look at early-warning detection in labor and delivery

Things happen fast in labor and delivery. Ordinary deliveries can quickly turn into extraordinary, life-threatening ones. In fact, approximately 40–50% of maternal mortalities could be prevented with early-warning recognition and intervention¹. That's because early signs of life-threatening conditions can be difficult to detect.

Frederick Memorial Hospital's obstetric unit was ahead of its time in realizing this. That's why it was one of the first in its region to adopt a Maternal Early Warning System (MEWS) protocol in tandem with GE Healthcare's Centricity™ Perinatal (CPN). Now, Clinical Nurse Specialist Lori Davies and Manager of Labor and Delivery Erika Linden continue to shape the hospital's obstetric MEWS protocols with the latest Centricity Perinatal technology. According to Regina Clark, MEWS nurse champion, an additional goal was to help our newer staff members identify the small but important changes in their patients' status and have a plan for action when these changes occur.

When Frederick Memorial Hospital first looked to revamp its maternal early-warning systems and practices, it needed something that was evidence-based and customizable. “Not only could Centricity Perinatal and the Early Warning System be tailored to the unique needs and protocol of our obstetrics unit, they also added another layer of security and confidence for labor and delivery nurses who aren't ACLS-certified,” says Lori.

A big transition. Made simple.

In obstetrics, nobody likes surprises. Implementing the Early Warning System was no exception. After it was first established, the process of integrating it into the existing systems was seamless. “Defining the criteria we wanted was what took the longest, but after we identified what we wanted, the process of implementing the MEWS to work with our systems was very quick,” says Lori. And once we were using it every day, the benefit of the transition was immediate. It made our workflow and escalation plans more organized and it made our nursing staff feel more confident too.

“Our nurses work in a fast-paced and complex environment. Thanks to Centricity Perinatal and the Early Warning System, we now have the ability to better ‘connect the dots’ to keep our patients safe.”

Erika Linden

Manager of Labor and Delivery

Streamlining workflow

In the Labor and Delivery unit at Frederick Memorial Hospital, time is valuable. In 2018 alone, the unit delivered 2,400 babies. Especially when the unit is busy and staff is limited, workflow can make all the difference.

Prior to Centricity Perinatal and the Early Warning System, the Labor and Delivery, OR, NICU, Post-Partum, and Newborn Nursery units all used disparate systems for documentation. “Thanks to Centricity Perinatal, everything just flows better and it's not as much double-documentation for the nurses,” says Lori. This is why the Perinatal department is gradually moving toward Centricity Perinatal as a single system for documentation—across the different units.

“Everything just flows so much better and it's not as much double-documentation for the nurses.”

Lori Davies

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Labor and Delivery

Why Frederick Memorial chose the Early Warning System

- Improves the quality and standardization of patient assessments
- Proven effective for early detection of deterioration in maternal condition
- Streamlines workflow and is completely customizable with existing systems
- Helps set clear expectations and criteria for abnormal values
- Helps define escalation plans for response

Approximately 40-50% of maternal deaths are potentially preventable. Delays in recognition, diagnosis, and treatment precede most deaths from hemorrhage, hypertension, infection, and venous thrombosis.



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Footnotes

1. Davies, L., MSN, RNC-OB, APRN-CNS, & Clark, R., RN. (n.d.). Implementing a Modified Early Obstetric Warning System: An Interprofessional Collaboration [Scholarly project].
A poster based on an informational study conducted by nursing staff at Frederick Memorial Hospital

Imagination at work

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