

SAFE GUARDING THE FUTURE

REDUCING MEDICO-LEGAL RISKS IN OBSTETRICS

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OUTLINE

- ▶ Reasons
- ▶ Obstetrics risk areas
- ▶ Contributing factors
- ▶ Risk reduction strategies
- ▶ Conclusion



INTRODUCTION



- ▶ Medico–legal claims global threat
- ▶ OBGY USA: 78% sued once, 37% three or more(Karki 2012)
 - Life time risk 100%
- ▶ UK: 60–70% of total malpractice suite
- ▶ SA: 55 billion (0.04% NHCB) in public sector in 2016/2017
 - National Health Care Budget (NHCB) 184 217 billion

WHY IMPORTANT?



- ▶ Patient: physical and emotional harm
- ▶ Health workers: emotional , professional & financial harm
- ▶ Families– health workers & patients
- ▶ Healthcare cost–increased

WHY ?



- ▶ Public more informed–right to quality healthcare
- ▶ Expectation–expectation vs resources
- ▶ Pregnancy natural– adverse outcome negligence
- ▶ Interpersonal: poor Pt–health worker relationship
- ▶ Teamwork
 - Ineffective communication
 - Interpersonal conflicts
 - Interprofessional conflicts
- ▶ Unethical medicolegal practices

ANTENATAL



- ▶ Failure to identify risk factors
- ▶ Missed chromosomal and structural anomalies
- ▶ Non adherence to protocols and management pathways

INTRAPARTUM



- ▶ Inappropriate use of induction agents
- ▶ Oxytocin
- ▶ Maternal and foetal monitoring
- ▶ Delay in appropriate management
- ▶ Non-adherence to protocols
- ▶ Poor record keeping
- ▶ Supervision

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS 1



▶ Individual

- Fatigue
- Burnout
- Low morale
- Knowledge and skills
- Not adhering to scope of practice
- Poor communication & interpersonal skills

COTRIBUTING FACTORS 2



- ▶ Health system/environmental
 - Lack of resources
 - High pressure environment
 - Protocols, guidelines
 - Poor organisational leadership
 - Teamwork
 - Communication
 - Supervision

Risk Reduction



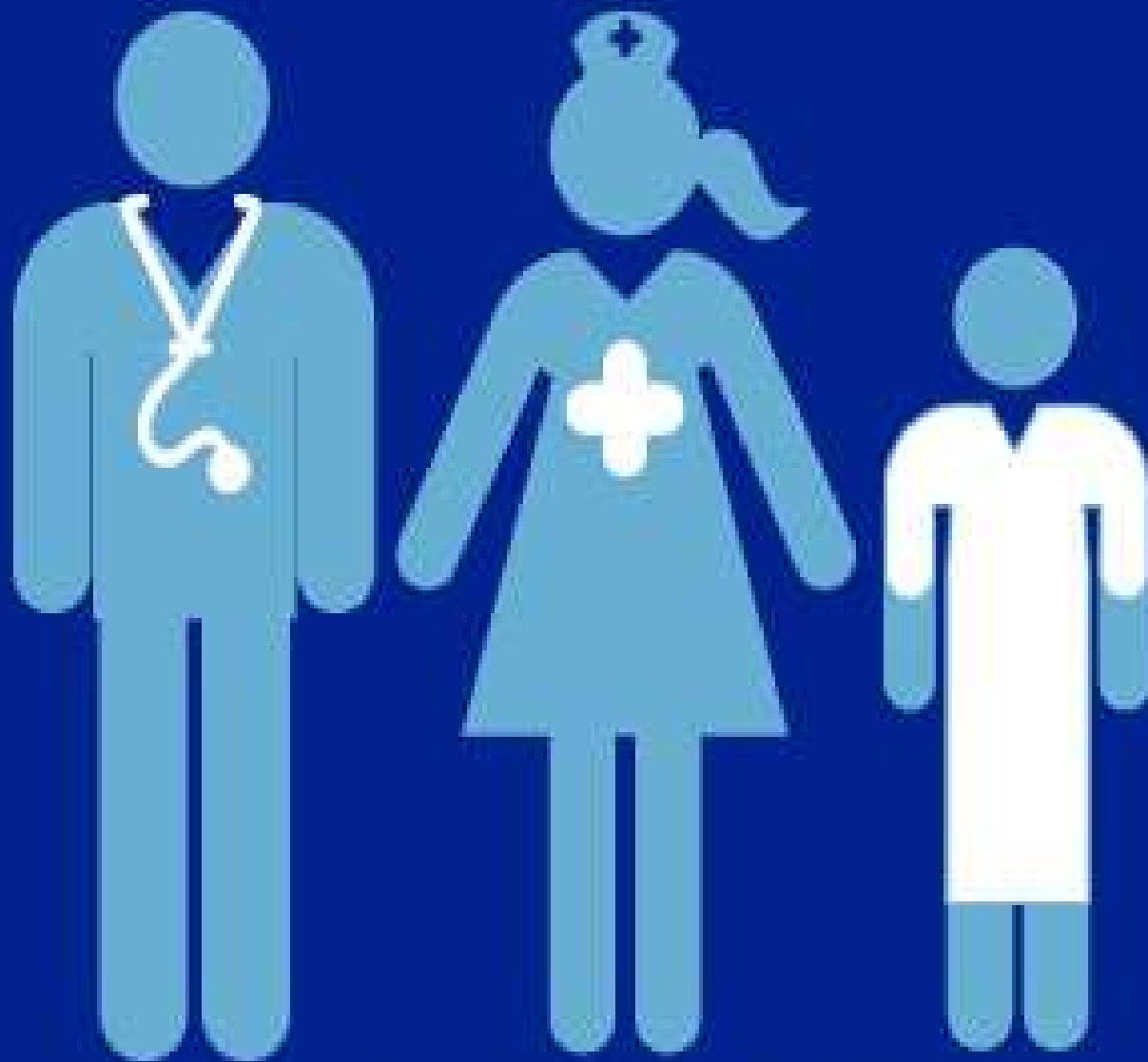
- ▶ Risk identification
 - Adverse events analysis
 - SAE committees

- ▶ Risk assessment
 - How many, frequency, why

- ▶ Develop risk management strategies (RMS)
 - Individual– e.g. employee wellness
 - Environmental: staffing, protocols, checklists, team building & communication
 - Consent
 - Record keeping
 - Training

- ▶ Implementation

- ▶ Evaluate efficacy of RM
 - Review and adjust



PATIENT SAFETY

CONCLUSION

- ▶ Adherence to patient safety initiatives
- ▶ Health system strengthening
- ▶ Effective leadership
- ▶ Protocols and checklist
- ▶ Staff : skills, wellness and morale
- ▶ Effective teamwork and communication

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