

## The IDPH Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Project: a Summary for Anesthesiologists

The Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Project was a topic of discussion at the ISA House of Delegates meeting on May 30, 2009. Questions were raised about the program's origin and implementation. Several delegates who had completed the training reported improved teamwork in subsequent obstetric hemorrhage situations.

Obstetric hemorrhage remains a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality in Illinois. The IDPH has mandated that the Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Project be implemented in all hospitals providing maternity services in the State of Illinois, by December 2009. The program is to include all providers of care on obstetric units including physicians, mid-level providers (midwives, CRNAs), nurses, and to a more limited extent, clerks, nursing assistants, and technicians. The Program was developed by the Illinois Maternal Mortality Review Committee with input from obstetric providers, anesthesia providers and perinatal nurses. The education project includes:

- 1) Benchmark Assessment Validation (a pre-test, may be web-based)
- 2) Didactic lecture
- 3) Skills station with estimation of blood loss training
- 4) Multi-disciplinary simulation drill(s) with debriefing.

In addition, hospitals are to develop a Rapid Response Team to include maternity services. Guidelines for the team composition, sample order sets, lists for emergency hemorrhage supply kits and code flow sheets are provided in the Instructors Resource Manual /teaching materials.

Implementation can vary to fit the needs of the staff at individual hospitals. Providers who practice at more than one institution must complete the first 3 components once (Benchmark Assessment, Didactic lecture, Skill station). However, the Simulation drill must be completed at each hospital where one practices. Providers are asked to participate in drills at each institution so that they have knowledge of systems which may be unique to each institution. All members of the OB care team must participate in the drill, including nursing assistants, technicians and clerical support.

The Program is being administered through the Illinois Perinatal Network. At each hospital, the Director of Maternal Child Nursing identifies the hospital physician and nurse "Champions" charged with implementation of the project. Anesthesiologists may want to review the Instructors Resource Manual (available from the above persons) for more details, and may find it beneficial to their department to be involved in the implementation, scheduling, giving didactic lectures, drills, and development of the Rapid Response Teams. While treatment of hemorrhage is a routine part of an anesthesiologist's job, the IDPH Hemorrhage Project seeks to improve teamwork and maternal outcomes in obstetric hemorrhage in the State of Illinois. Anesthesiologists are an important part of the team, and as such, are considered important participants in this project.