



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Reducing institutional maternal mortality ratio in Keta Municipal Hospital using quality improvement tools

Category:

Maternal and child health

Authors:

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Objectives:

High maternal mortality ratio is unacceptable globally as it reflects inequality in poor access to quality healthcare. In 2022, a review of institutional maternal mortality ratio at Keta Municipal Hospital was as high as 120.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, against the hospital’s goal to record no death within the same period.

Method:

A multidisciplinary work improvement team led by the quality manager reviewed and brainstormed contributory factors to maternal mortality in the hospital. Factors identified were prioritized and root cause analysis was performed using five-whys. The root cause identified was inadequate knowledge and skills of midwives on the use of Modified Early Warning Systems (MEWS) in the identification and management of obstetrics emergencies.

Results:

The team aimed to reduce IMMR by 50% by December 2023. The change idea tested and implemented was continuous capacity building of midwives on MEWS and common obstetric emergencies. By December 2023, IMMR reduced by 52.9% from 120.6 (in 2022) to 56.3 per 100,000 LB. Median percentage MEWS coverage was 72.9%, percentage MEWS completeness was 88.2% and percentage MEWS adherence was 86.6% against a target of 70%.

Conclusion:

The use of MEWS in caring for pregnant women helped identified high risk clients for early initiation of care and continuous monitoring. The application of continuous quality improvement tools helped reduced maternal mortality by 52.9% in 12 months.

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