

Transforming the care of mothers in labor



Most women remember pregnancy as a time of joyful expectation. This may be the one time that patients are eager to come to the hospital and feel sure that the “outcome” will be a happy one.

More happy birth outcomes will continue at Page Hospital, through the utilization of a new electronic medical records system designed to prevent errors and improve patient safety in the hospital delivery room.

Named Intelligent Patient Record for Obstetrics, or IPROB, this new system functions as a complete obstetric medical record, containing all the information about the laboring patient and the course of the delivery. The main purpose of IPROB is to provide yet another layer of safety for laboring moms and their babies. The program alerts when a potential problem occurs, allowing the doctor or nurse to react immediately with the appropriate treatment which results in improved safety to babies and moms.

Sandy Tusa, R.N agrees that the system is a benefit because the care standards within the system provide an extra layer of safety and the system is intuitive for both typical and atypical cases. “IPROB is set up to analyze data for a safer labor and delivery for mom and baby. It will standardize the care of the OB patients, enable better collaboration with the entire healthcare team, and allow for a more thorough assessment of the patient by the R.N. Being in the room during the entire charting process allows for more patient/R.N. time, too”, said Tusa.

In addition to alerting for potential problems, IPROB streamlines the way patient information is kept. Doctors and nurses can navigate through patient information with specific menus and prompts, alerting the caregiver to new orders or if information is missing. Any new information about the patient or delivery is immediately available to those involved in the patient’s care, giving doctors and others involved in the patient’s care “real-time” information about the patient. Also, the doctor can access the system remotely, allowing her to follow her patient’s progress and direct the patient’s care from their offices & homes if need be with just a few clicks.

The brainchild of Dr. Eyal Ephrat, IPROB was developed from the combination of his obstetric background and his experience in electronic warfare. An interesting combination indeed, but one that pulls from the best of medical knowledge, technology, and critical thinking under stressful conditions. E&C Medical Intelligence, Dr. Ephrat’s New Jersey based company, sets a baseline quality assessment to identify gaps and deficiencies in the system which might expose facilities and their staff to malpractice suits. Quarterly statistics are reviewed for any problems so that adjustments can be made.

Page Hospital has been intimately involved in the development of IPROB for Banner Health. Dr. Dennis Foley of Page was a member of the development committee, comprised of physicians, nurses and obstetric specialist throughout the system. Page Hospital is also a leader within the system among community hospitals. “Page Hospital was the first rural hospital within Banner Health to go active with IPROB,” said Tusa. “As the primary health care facility and birthing center in such a rural area, we are excited to have the best technology to take care of our patients.” While the system is costly, Banner Health executives expect it to save millions of dollars of costs associated with undesirable patient outcomes.