

COMPLIANCE WITH VITAL SIGNS MONITORING OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Background

- ❖ The Irish Maternity Early Warning Score system (iMEWS)¹ monitors the vital signs of pregnant and postnatal women for up to 42 days after delivery.
- ❖ Developed in the UK in 2013¹, it has been in use in Ireland since 2014^{1,2}
- ❖ Effective in identifying deterioration in pregnant or postnatal women early
- ❖ Aids to prevent mortality and improve clinical judgment³.

Objectives

- ❖ To analyse the appropriate usage of iMEWS, escalation of care as per iMEWS parameters, and identification of strategies to improve any deficiencies.

Methods

- ❖ A retrospective audit
- ❖ Data collected from hospital's inpatient enquiry systems of pregnant or postpartum women over years. (2022-2023).
- ❖ 15 charts were identified; 1 chart was excluded (iMEWS not recorded).
- ❖ Clinical outcomes and documentation deficits were evaluated.

Results

- ❖ 1 woman transferred to an obstetric hospital for further care
- ❖ 92% were discharged home without complications.
- ❖ Areas of good practice:
- ❖ Use of the iMEWS system for all emergency department admissions, accurate numerical entries using a 24-hour clock, and recording pain score assessments.
- ❖ Areas requiring improvement:
- ❖ Only 13% urine analysis recorded
- ❖ 29% of escalations not made using iMEWS parameters.
- ❖ Major issues:
- ❖ Incorrect gestation week documentation in 17% of patients and no gestation week documentation in 73% of patients.
- ❖ Only 1 out of 7 post-C-section patients had the official ISBAR form.
- ❖ 1 patient was switched from iMEWS to EWS³ within 24 hours, but fortunately, no adverse reactions occurred.

Conclusion

- Vital signs of obstetric patients admitted to general hospitals are monitored using iMEWS.
- An additional staff training requirement was identified for iMEWS usage and prompt care escalation using ISBAR and ISBAR3 tools.
- To address this, iMEWS training was provided during medical and nursing grand rounds, and online videos were made available. Additionally, participation in teaching during induction week was made compulsory.

References

1. Irish Maternity Early Warning System (iMEWS) V2; national guideline no. 4, Feb 2019
2. Resource manual facilitator guide for clinical handover an inter disciplinary education programme, hse.ie
3. Hseiland: iMEWS, Sepsis management of adults including maternity