

COVERYS



Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative

## Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative - Track III

**Patient Safety First...  
a California Partnership for Health**



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## T.R.U.S.T. Putting It All Together for Perinatal Safety



Larry Veltman, MD  
HASC Perinatal Safety Track  
October 23, 2012

Coverys Risk Management

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### What is L & D Really Like?

- Normal clinical care on L and D is dynamic:
  - Each physician and nurse must often juggle several tasks concurrently.
  - Linear operations are frequently interrupted.
  - External demands arrive at unpredictable moments.
  - Conditions sometimes force task elements to be performed out of normal sequence.
  - At times people are operating under conditions of fatigue.
  - There are often "distractions" that must be negotiated.

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### Traditional Depiction of Task Management

- **Linear:** task A → task B → task C in a fixed sequence.
  - Abn EFM, nurse recognizes, calls doctor, doctor comes, does a c-section, Appgars 9-9.
- **Controllable:** tasks are initiated by caregivers at their discretion.
- **Predictable:**
  - Information is available when needed.
  - Individuals can communicate effectively as needed.
- **Overall picture: operations are individually driven and under moment-to-moment control of team members...**

Right?

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### Getting The Job Done: The Four “A”s The Linear Model

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graph TD; Assess --> Alert; Alert --> Align; Align --> Act
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### Getting The Job Done: The Four “A”s The Linear Model with 1:1 Feedback

```
graph TD; Assess <--> Alert; Alert <--> Align; Align <--> Act
```

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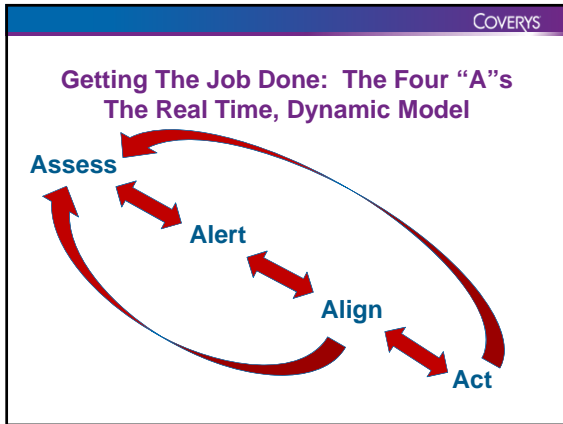
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What Are The Components of A Safe Perinatal Team?

A Team That Can Manage The Real Time, Dynamic Model and Do It As Safely As Possible

A Team That Makes Up A High Reliability Prenatal Unit

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**T.R.U.S.T.**

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- T
- R
- U
- S
- T

The Components of a Safe Perinatal Unit



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**A Checklist for T.R.U.S.T.**

- Team Training
- Respect
- Unambiguous conversations
- Skillful anticipation / Situational awareness
  - Succinct policies and procedures that follow practice
- Technical expertise, judgment, and performance
  - Tracking and trending (data/quality)



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**What Are The Components Of Team Training?**

**What Makes An Effective Perinatal Team?**



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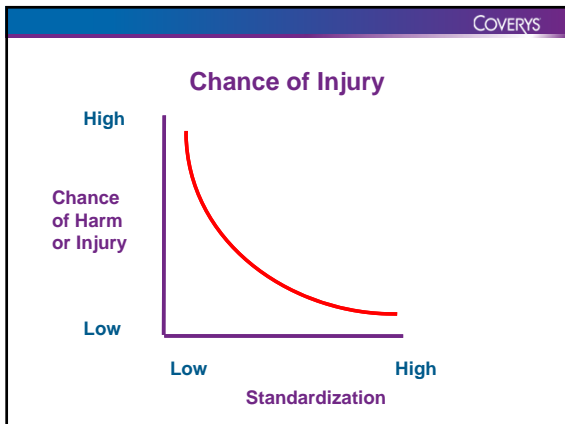
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### Association Between Implementation of a Medical Team Training Program and Surgical Mortality

“The 74 facilities in the training program experienced an 18% reduction in annual mortality...compared with a 7% decrease amongst the 34 facilities that had yet undergone training...”

Source: J. Nelly, P. D. Mills, Y. Young-Xu, et al., "Association Between Implementation of a Medical Team Training Program and Surgical Mortality," *JAMA*, Vol. 304, No. 15, 2010, pp. 1673-1700.

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**OBSTETRICS**

### Outcomes of the Introduction of the MORE<sup>OB</sup> Continuing Education Program in Alberta

Nguyen X. Thanh, MD, PhD, MPH,<sup>1</sup> Philip Jacobs, PhD, CMA,<sup>2</sup> Margaret I. Wanke, MHA<sup>3</sup>  
Ann Hensle, RN, MN,<sup>4</sup> Reg Sauve, MD, MPH, FRCPC<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Health Economics, Edmonton AB  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB  
<sup>3</sup>Charis Management Consulting Inc., Edmonton AB  
<sup>4</sup>Alberta Perinatal Health Program, Edmonton AB  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Community Health Sciences and Pediatrics, University of Calgary, Calgary AB

**Abstract**

**Objective:** In 2004, the three-module, three-year long patient safety program, Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently (MORE<sup>OB</sup>), was introduced to all clinicians providing obstetrical services in Alberta. We report on an outcomes evaluation of this initiative.

**Methods:** Provincial hospital discharge abstracts for each mother and infant were obtained from 2003 through 2008. A pre-post design with a multivariate analysis was conducted for each relevant maternal and fetal outcome.

**Results:** For maternal outcomes, third- and fourth-degree tears and length of stay were significantly decreased. For neonatal outcomes, severe morbidity was significantly reduced.

**Conclusion:** The MORE<sup>OB</sup> program was associated with improvement in selected maternal and fetal health outcome indicators. When a patient safety program is introduced as an intensive, long-term continuing education and quality improvement initiative, health outcomes can be significantly improved.

**INTRODUCTION**

Following the attention that was paid to adverse events in several countries, including Canada,<sup>1</sup> the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has been instrumental in the development of a patient safety program in Alberta. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has been instrumental in the development of a patient safety program in Alberta. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has been instrumental in the development of a patient safety program in Alberta.

J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2010;32(5):749-755

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### What are the Components of Respect?

- Flatten hierarchy
- Eliminate incivility, intimidation, disruptive behavior
- Eliminate horizontal hostility
- Conflict resolution with neutral language
- Trusting each other



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### What Is Necessary for Unambiguous Conversations?

- SBAR-R
- P.U.R.E. Conversations
- Speak up!



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- If you see it, SAY it
  - "Silence Kills"
  - "The Silent Treatment"
  - "Speak up for Safety"
  - "From Silence to Voice"
  - "Stop the line"
- Be a safety net for others



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### Influences on "Speaking Up"

- Personal
  - Learned at home
  - Culture
  - Doing the right thing
  - Education
- Organizational
  - Peers
  - Managers
  - Administration/Executives
  - Organizational culture



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### Skillful Anticipation / Situational Awareness / Succinct Policies and Procedures



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### Components of Skillful Anticipation?

- TEM
- Being prepared
- Knowing the plan, the patient, colleagues
- Envisioning the whole picture, situational awareness
- Adequate staffing
- Taking initiative



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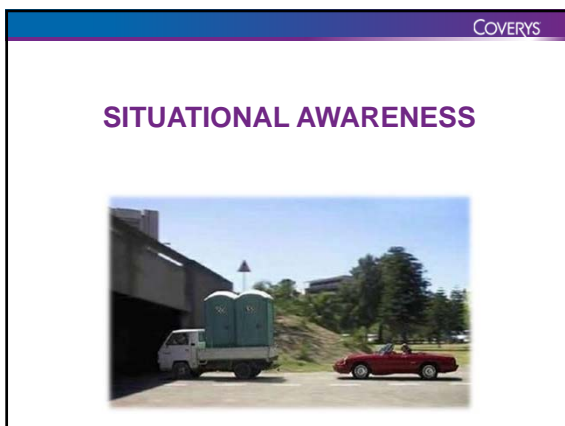
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### Situational Awareness

"...continuously monitoring what is happening in the ... environment in order to understand what is going on and what might happen in the next minutes or hours..."

- What's going on?
- So what?
- Now what?

Source: M. R. Endsley, "Toward a Theory of Situation Awareness in Dynamic Systems," *Human Factors*, Vol. 37, No. 1, 1995, pp. 32-64.

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### Technical Expertise & Judgment Associated With Perinatal Safety



A stack of four smooth, grey stones. From top to bottom, they are labeled: "Team", "Balance", "Solutions", and "Communication".

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### Technical

- OVD
- Ultrasound
- Twin delivery
- IUFC, FSE
- Cesarean delivery
- Perinatology and neonatology availability
- Resuscitation skills



A blue and white ultrasound machine with a screen displaying a fetal image.

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### Judgment

- When to initiate oxytocin
- When to call for a cesarean delivery
- When to terminate the second stage
- When to call the doctor
- When to work when fatigued
- When to "stop the line" for safety
- When to initiate the chain of command



A blue metal seesaw with two silver seats and a central pivot point.

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Add an "H" To T.R.U.S.T.

T.H.R.U.S.T.

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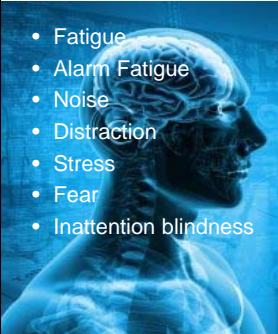
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**Human Performance Issues**

- Fatigue
- Alarm Fatigue
- Noise
- Distraction
- Stress
- Fear
- Inattention blindness
- Multitasking
- Rushing
- Complacency
- Bias
- Personal issues
- Others?



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Doctor Saturn to Earth:

"I've got bad news. I'm afraid you have humans"



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### Relationships Matter!

We must pay attention to “the everyday human contact and social formation of friendships and conflicts that occur when individuals work in groups.”



Source: S. Espin, L. Lingard, G. R. Baker and G. Regher, "Persistence of Unsafe Practice in Everyday Work: An Exploration of Organizational and Psychological Factors Constraining Safety in the Operation Room," *Quality and Safety in HealthCare*, Vol. 15, No. 3, June 2006, pp. 155-170.

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### Human Performance Factors and Perinatal Safety




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### The Joint Commission

#### Root Cause Information for Maternal Events Reviewed by The Joint Commission

(Resulting in death or permanent loss of function)

2004 through 1Q 2012 (N=99)  
*The majority of events have multiple root causes*

Human Factors	52
Communication	51
Assessment	45
Leadership	42
Information Management	21
No Root Cause Identified	20
Physical Environment	16
Continuum of Care	14
Care Planning	12
Medication Use	12

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### The Joint Commission

#### Root Cause Information for Perinatal Events Reviewed by The Joint Commission

(Full-term infant 2500g or > and absence of obvious congenital abnormality, resulting in death or permanent loss of function)

2004 through 1Q 2012 (N=209)	
<i>The majority of events have multiple root causes</i>	
Human Factors	151
Communication	141
Assessment	138
Leadership	124
Information Management	46
Physical Environment	38
Care Planning	24
Continuum of Care	17
Medication Use	17
Operative Care	7

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### The Joint Commission

- **Human Factors**  
Staffing levels, staffing skill mix, staff orientation, in-service education, competency assessment, staff supervision, resident supervision, medical staff credentialing/privileging, medical staff peer review, other (e.g., rushing, fatigue, distraction, complacency, bias)

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### The Joint Commission

- **Communication**  
Oral, written, electronic, among staff, with/among physicians, with administration, with patient or family
- **Assessment**  
Adequacy, timing, or scope of; assessment; pediatric, psychiatric, alcohol/drug, and/or abuse/neglect assessments; patient observation; clinical laboratory testing; care decisions

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### The Joint Commission

- Leadership  
Organizational planning, organizational culture, community relations, service availability, priority setting, resource allocation, complaint resolution, leadership collaboration, standardization (e.g., clinical practice guidelines), directing department/services, integration of services, inadequate policies and procedures, non-compliance with policies and procedures, performance improvement, medical staff organization, nursing leadership

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### Some Additional Definitions

- Human factors is an academic discipline that focuses on the interaction between humans and devices, processes or technology.
  - the term refers to the role of humans in the evolution of error.
  - the application of principles of human factors in the design of technology is called human factors engineering.
  - ergonomics, the design of devices to maximize safety and efficiency.
- Human performance, the study of cognition, attention, memory, perception, communication.

Source: G. G. Porto, "Safety by Design: Ten Lessons from Human Factors Research," *Journal of Healthcare Risk Management*, Vol. 21, No. 4, 2001, pp. 45-52.

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### Because We Are Humans:

We have:

- Limitations in memory capacity
- Limited ability to deal with multiple competing demands
- Weakened mental abilities, including decision-making, by things such as fear and fatigue
- Influence from the effect of group dynamics and culture



Source: R. Helmreich, D. Musson and B. Sexton, "Applying Aviation Safety Initiatives to Medicine," *Focus on Patient Safety*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Winter 2001.

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## When I'm Fatigued...



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## “Even when fatigued, I perform effectively during critical phases of operations/patient care”

- Nurse anesthetists - 55%
- Anesthesia residents - 57%
- Anesthesiologists - 47%
- Surgical nurses - 60%
- Surgical residents – 56%
- **Surgeons - 70%**
- Intensive care nurses - 64%
- Intensivists - 64%
- **Pilots - 28%**

Source: J. B. Sexton, E. J. Thomas and R. L. Helmreich, "Error, Stress, and Teamwork in Medicine and Aviation: Cross Sectional Surveys," *BMJ*, Vol. 320, 2000, p. 745-749.

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## Human Factors and Impaired Vigilance: “Taking Your Eye Off the Ball”

- Definition: The Ability to Sustain Attention
- Vigilance can be impaired with:
  - Fatigue (3 a.m.=0.05, 7 a.m.=0.1)\*
  - Illness (in oneself or a family member)
  - Feeling rushed
  - Stress
  - Financial losses or worries
  - Anger
  - Drugs or gambling
  - Feelings of invulnerability (hubris)
  - Lack of motivation

Source: D. Dawson and K. Reid, "Fatigue, Alcohol, and Performance Impairment," *Nature*, 388, July 1997, p. 235.

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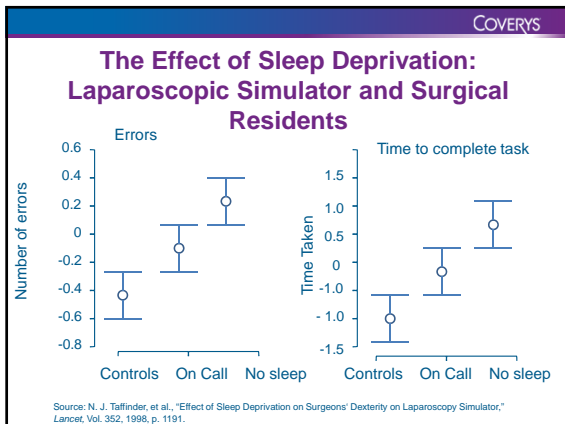
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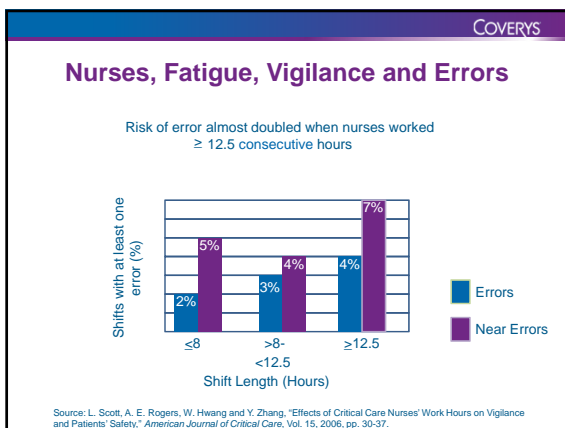
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### Exercise

- A human performance issue will be assigned to your table – fatigue, alarm fatigue, noise, distraction, stress, fear, multitasking, rushing, complacency, bias, personal issues
- Give a concrete example of this issue in your organization and discuss what was done, what was not done, or what you plan to do about it.
- Select a representative to tell the audience.

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"IV Epidural Mix Up Leads to Maternal Death"



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Heparin vials in different strengths (left and center) and an example of new labeling for heparin (right).

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### Inattention Blindness

Low expectation of a bad outcome PLUS a high mental workload

For Example:

- Three patients arrive at once with preeclampsia
- Physician fails to come when called
- Holiday weekend with lot of "sick" calls
- Inconsistent interpretation of EFM tracing
- Lack of standard approach to using vacuum
- Someone pushing pit
- Particular nurse-physician relationship conflict
- Methergine shortage

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### Overcoming Human Error

Less Effective More Effective

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## Questions

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# Thank You

It's Been A Pleasure Working  
With You All For The Last  
Three Years

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### Contact Information



- Data Entry Website: <http://nhfca.org/PatientSafetyFirst>
- Julia Slininger, Hospital Association of Southern California [jslininger@hasc.org](mailto:jslininger@hasc.org)
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We understand healthcare

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