Teamwork and communication are essential to quality healthcare and patient safety. TeamSTEPPS® (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) is an evidence-based teamwork system aimed at optimizing patient outcomes by improving communication and other teamwork skills among healthcare professionals.

KEY TeamSTEPPS® CONCEPTS AND TOOLS RELATED TO POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE EVENTS

**READINESS**

- **Brief:** a short planning session prior to an event or shift.  
  Ex: patient has risk factors for PPH, let's be prepared with equipment/medications.
- **Huddle:** a quick meeting to share information and regain situation awareness.  
  Ex: team discusses causes for PPH, uterotonics given, plans for going to the OR.

**RECOGNITION & PREVENTION**

- **Situation Awareness:** state of mindfulness and knowing external factors that may affect care.
- **Cross Monitoring:** watching each other's back and speaking up if you notice something.

**RESPONSE**

- **SBAR:** brief summary of Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation that is critical information provided to team members as they arrive to an event.  
  Ex: “We are having a postpartum hemorrhage with uterine atony. Patient is a 42y/o G5P5 s/p NSVD 1 hour ago. QBL is 1200cc, BP 95/60. I have given oxytocin and called for methergine.”
- **Call-Out:** critical information that is relayed clear, concise and timely to team  
  Ex: “The patient’s blood pressure has dropped to 90/60 and she is tachycardic to 120 bpm.”  
  “The blood bank has been called and is activating the massive transfusion protocol.”
Teamwork and Communication in Obstetrical Emergencies

- **Check Back**: closed-loop communication to ensure that information conveyed by the sender is understood by the receiver and acknowledged.
  
  *Ex: Doctor “Give 0.2mg Methergine IM”
  Nurse “0.2mg Methergine IM given”*

- **Psychological Safety**: team members are encouraged to speak up for patient safety.

- **Role Clarity**: assign specific tasks to team members.

- **Shared Mental Model**: team members have a common goal which is communicated.

- **Handoff**: transfer of information during transitions in care.

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**REPORTING**

- **Debrief**: a nonjudgmental team meeting after an event discussing lessons learned and reinforcing positive behaviors, essential to process improvement.
  
  *Ex: all team members after PPH, what went well, what should we change*