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 OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES

**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 or obtaining additional help as needed.

**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 increased to 180/60 and we need to administer an antihypertensive medication.”
Check Back: closed-loop communication to ensure that information conveyed by the sender is understood by the receiver and acknowledged

Ex: Doctor “The patient’s blood pressure has increased to 180/106 and we need to administer an antihypertensive medication.”

Nurse “Doctor, what medication would you like me to administer to treat the increased blood pressure?”

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.

Debrief: a nonjudgmental team meeting after an event discussing lessons learned and reinforcing positive behaviors, essential to process improvement.

Ex: all team members after event, what went well, what should we change