

Postpartum Hemorrhage Cart and Medication Kit Improves Response Time

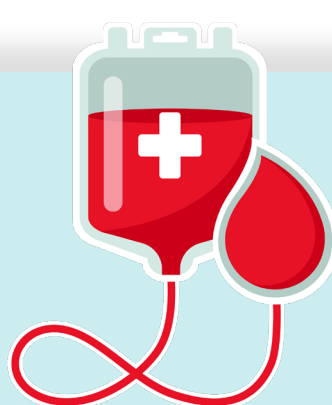


High maternal mortality rates continue to be a problem. And postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal morbidity in the United States. Because delayed treatment of PPH contributes to morbidity and mortality, timely treatment is imperative.



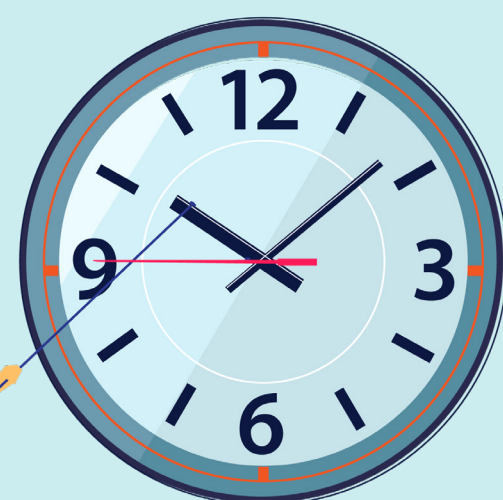
A study from the February 2022 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety (JQPS)* suggests keeping a PPH cart and medication kit conveniently placed in labor and delivery (L&D) units significantly reduces the time needed to obtain essential materials to treat obstetric hemorrhage, enabling health care teams to initiate treatment sooner, which should improve outcomes.

Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. have risen since the 1980s.



PPH is the leading cause of maternal morbidity and leading contributor to maternal mortality in the U.S. Globally, PPH leads to ~140,000 deaths annually.

Hemorrhage affects 3-5% of deliveries



Timely treatment of PPH is imperative. Every second of delay can lead to significant blood loss, increasing morbidity and mortality.

The No. 1 cause of delayed treatment: Supplies and medications essential for treating PPH are often kept too far from patients, leading to dangerous inefficiencies and delays.

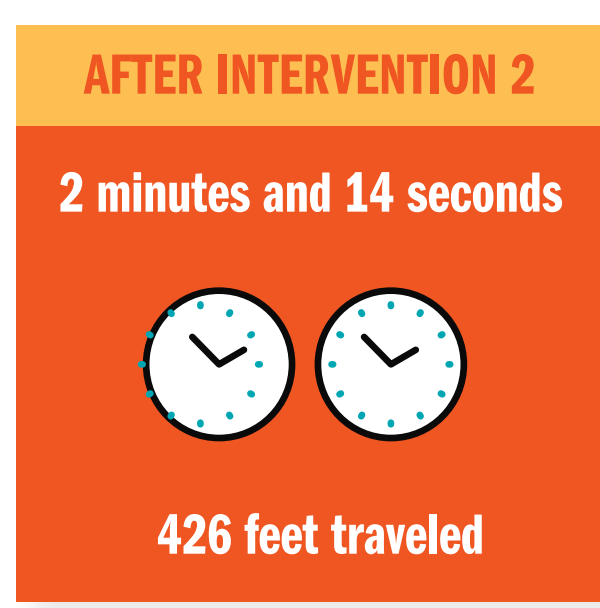
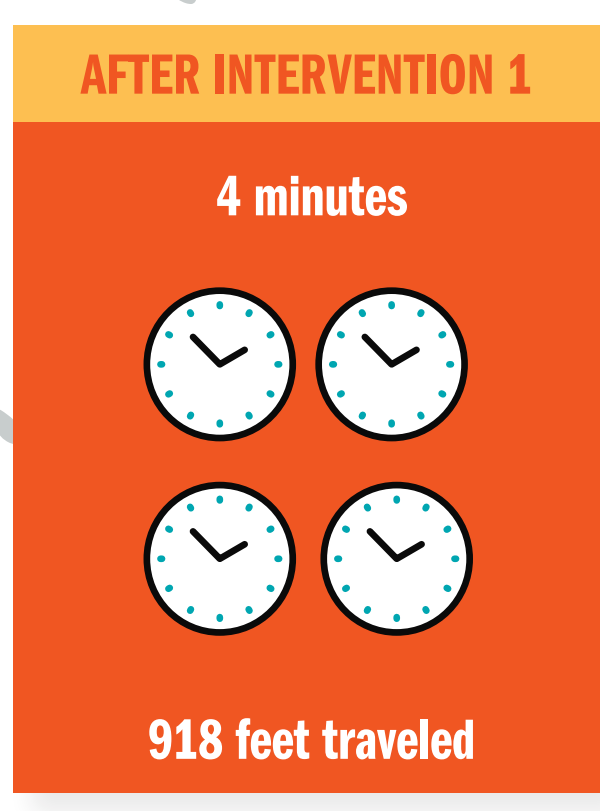
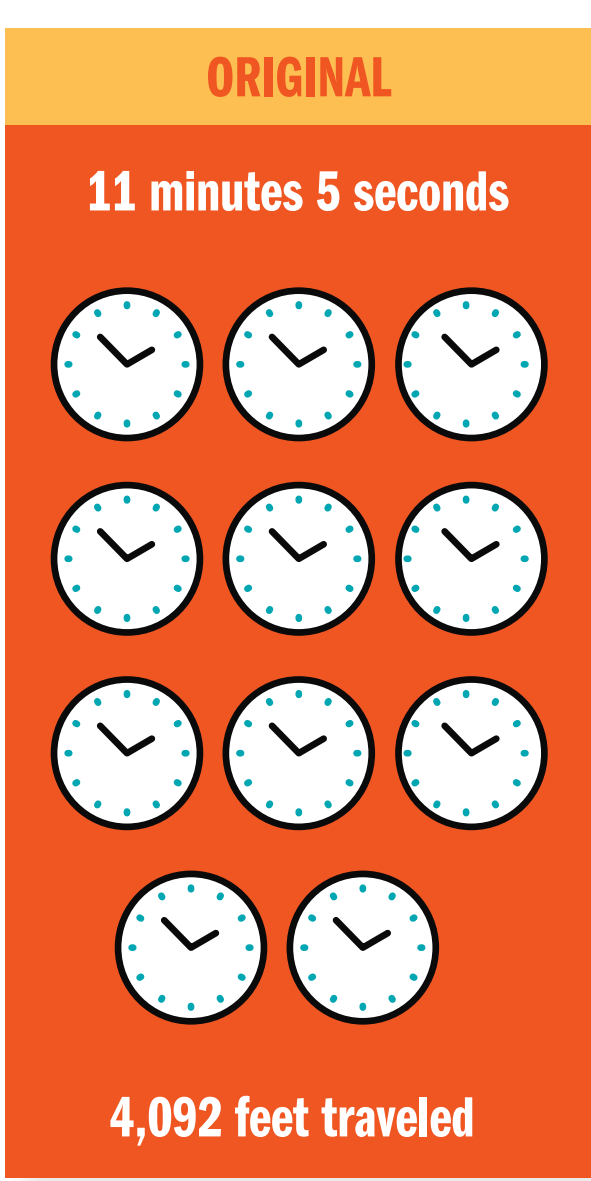
L&D units should maximize PPH response efficiency by reducing time spent and distance traveled to accumulate materials necessary for PPH treatment.



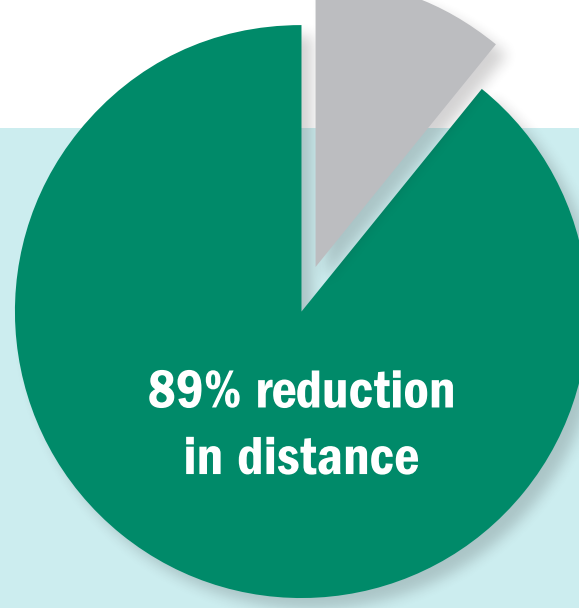
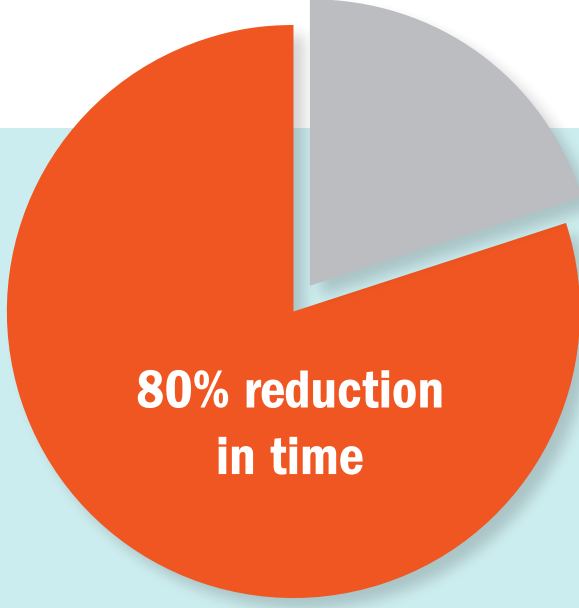
Using Lean Six Sigma tools, the study team constructed a process map to chart the time and distance needed to collect items.

INTERVENTION 1:
A five-drawer, moveable cart was created containing the supplies most used in response to PPH and positioned in a central, easily accessible location.

INTERVENTION 2:
A medication kit was added to the cart with a refrigerated box of all medications typically administered during a PPH.



Together, the interventions reduced the time to acquire a list of PPH response materials from **11 minutes 5 seconds** to **2 minutes 14 seconds** and **reduced distance traveled by 3,666 feet.**



A PPH cart and medication kit can significantly reduce the time and distance traveled to obtain materials necessary to treat hemorrhage, thus optimizing a team's ability to efficiently treat PPH.

To learn more about this study, visit:
[https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250\(21\)00240-3/fulltext](https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250(21)00240-3/fulltext)