

The Role of Nurse Advocate in Caesarean Sections on Maternal Request

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Outline



Background



Research Methods



The Guidelines



The Big Picture of Choice



The Role of the Nurse Advocate



What is at Risk



Background



- Increasing rate of caesarean section in Canada (CIHI, 2018)



- WHO recommend a caesarean rate of less than 10% (WHO, 2015)



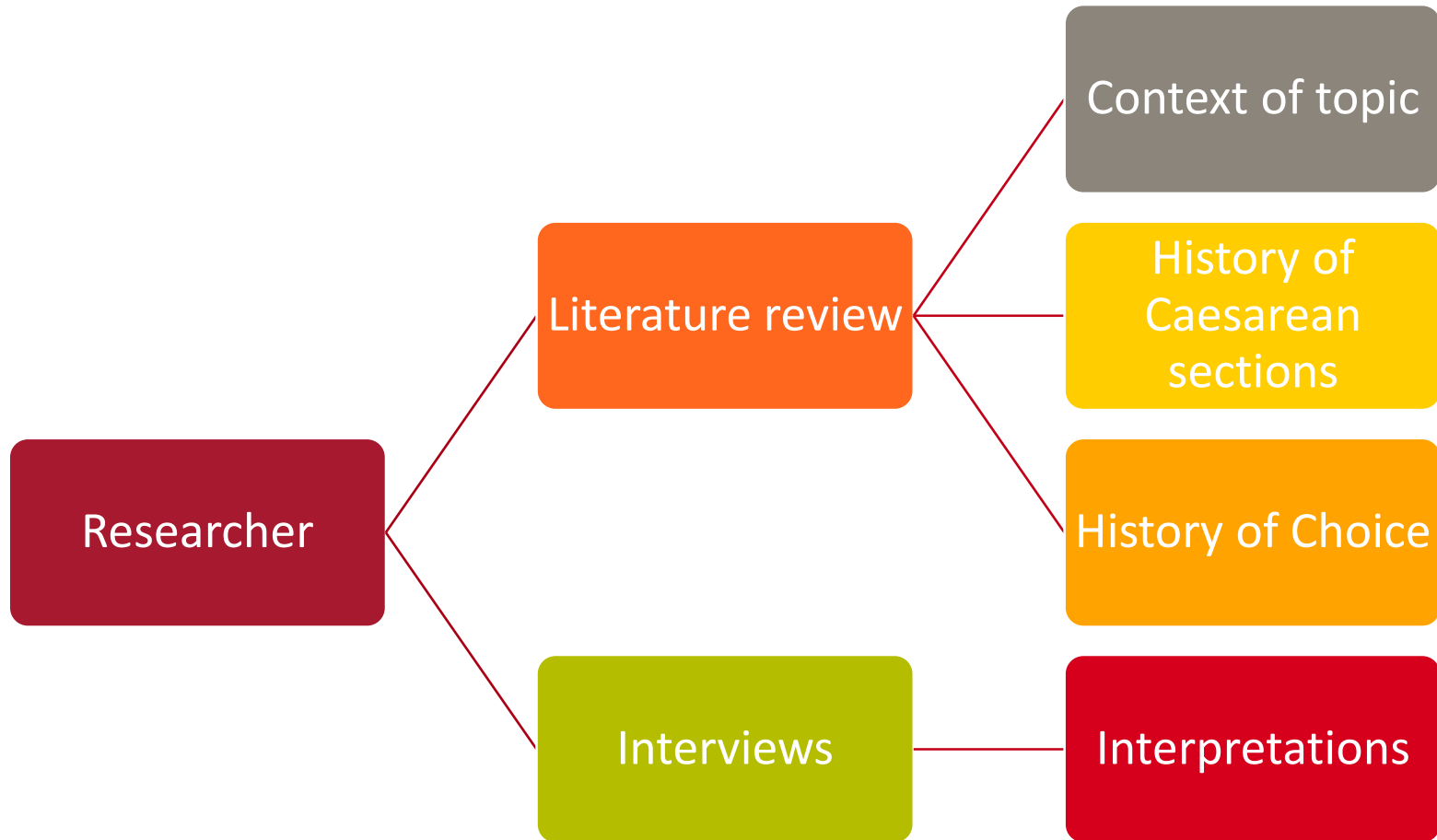
- Women are requesting caesarean sections in the absence of medical indications (Gallegher et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2007)



- HCPs are challenged to choose whether or not they will support women's choice



Research Methods





The Guidelines



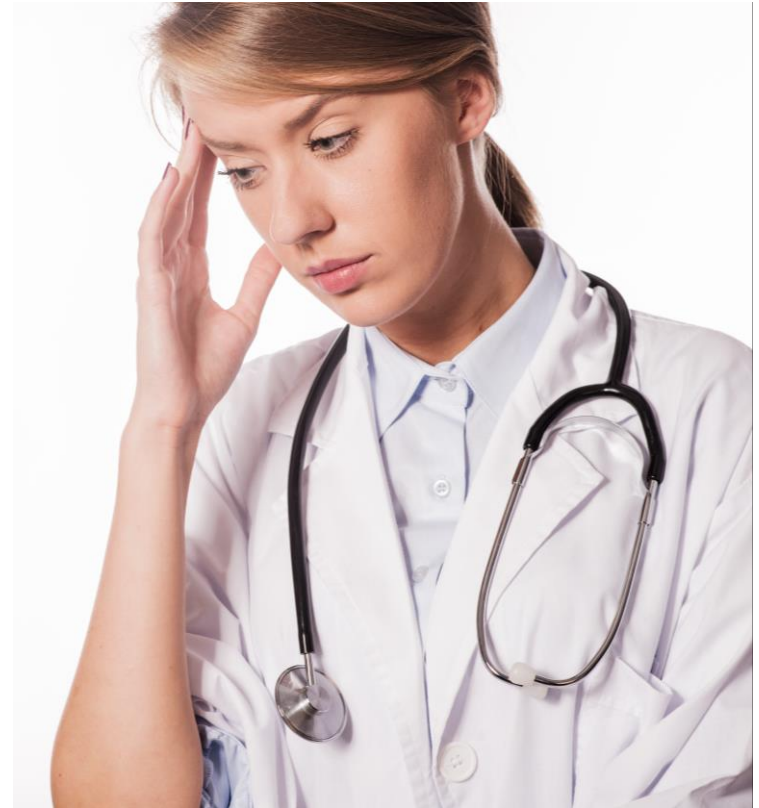
- There is a lack of clear guidance for maternity nurses
- Recommend physicians explore context of a woman's choice and if comfortable, to support her choice by performing the caesarean section. If not to refer to another physician (NICE, 2013; SOGC, 2018)



The Guidelines

Ethical or Moral Distress

- “Arises when nurses are unable to act according to their moral judgement”
(Rodney, 2017, s7)
- Can lead to anger, frustration, guilt (CNA, 2017)
- Act as catalyst for self-reflection, collaboration, growth, and advocacy
(Rodney, 2017)





The Big Picture of Choice

- Knowing the broader context of choice may help resolve nurses' ethical distress in caring for these women.
- Medical procedure developed as life-saving necessity (Lee, 2008)
- Women's rights movements, industrialization, consumerism in health care have contributed to the shift from necessity to commodity (Imanoff et al., 2016)



The Big Picture of Choice

Patient Perspective

- Sense of control promotes positive physiological and psychological response (Marmot, 1991)
- Feelings of losing control during delivery have been implicated in PTSD and PPD (American Psychiatric Association, 1994; Saisto & Halmesmaki, 2003).





Role of the Nurse Advocate



- Promote individualized care (Waters & Easton, 1999)
- Women feels in control (Saisto & Halmesmaki, 2003)
- Higher birth satisfaction (Saisto & Halmesmaki, 2003)
- Promotes positive transitions into motherhood



Role of the Nurse Advocate



- Nurses need to respond to increasing demand
- New role of nurse consultant
- Advocate for all choices equally
- Provide space to discuss and coordinate individualized care
- Promotes positive transitions into motherhood

(Imanoff et al., 2016)



What is at Risk?



- Parent-child interactions are foundational (Bowlby, 1988)
- Maternal stress, anxiety, and depression are considered “environmental factors” that influence an individual’s health across their lifespan (CIHR, 2017, para, 2).



What is at Risk?



Assess quality of relationship



Promoting healthy relationships



Referring to other services as needed



Summary

- Choice is complex and historically situated
- Impact of allowing choice on maternal mental health and child development
- Nurses are in a unique role to act as advocate and have potential for new role of consultant



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