



# IMPROVING THE PRACTICE OF ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE BY MIDWIVES IN A NATIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL

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## Background

- Practicing aseptic technique during the process of child birth remains a global concern.
- Puerperal sepsis constitutes the second leading cause of maternal mortality world-wide.
- Puerperal sepsis is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in Swaziland [Swaziland Demographic Health Survey(SDHS), 2006-2007].



# BACKGROUND

- Practising aseptic technique during the process of childbirth can contribute to reduction of puerperal sepsis.
- However, initiatives towards reduction of infection during childbirth such as practising aseptic technique is lacking among the skilled attendants.



# Purpose

- To implement an intervention to improve the practice of aseptic technique by midwives during the second stage of labour.



# Methodology

- James Kouzes and Barry Posner's (KP) leadership model (2013) guided the design and implementation of the project.
- Nineteen midwives participated in the project.
- A self –reporting audit tool was developed using content from the Midwifery Procedure Manual and related literature.
- This Midwifery Procedure Manual is a reference source developed by the Swaziland Nursing Council.
- Both baseline and post-intervention data were collected through self-reporting using an audit tool.



# Methodology

## The process

- A series of discussions were held with the midwives prior to implementation of the project guided by content:
  - on the management of second stage of labour from the Midwifery Procedure Manual
  - the audit tool and
  - the baseline findings.



# Results / Impact

- An audit tool to evaluate whether principles of practicing aseptic technique were adhered to was developed
- Nineteen midwives were trained to improve aseptic technique
- A total of fifty two student midwives were seconded to the unit during the project period.



# Results / Impact

- Other beneficiaries included:
  - two Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
  - Five general practitioners
  - Two unit managers.
  - One clinical supervisor who supervises student midwives on clinical attachment
  - 4 846 mothers who gave birth during the period 1 May 2016 to 14 May 2017 which was the period the intervention was implemented
- Baseline findings indicated that 81% of the principles of practising aseptic technique were adhered compared to 87% post intervention an increase of 6%.

















# Mentee Impact

## Leadership skills development and Lessons Learnt

- I have gained knowledge and skills in team building and collaboration, conflict management and crisis management.
- Team building is not an essay task but one can manage when the vision is clearly shared and team members cooperate.
- In times of crisis ,crisis management should be employed but members should be well informed about the particular crisis.
- When evidence is available ,team members are likely to cooperate.





# Mentee Impact

## Challenges

- Building a team which cooperates requires patience, clear communication and determination.
- Activities do not usually get implemented according to plan, so at times one has to manage the crisis.
- Resources are not always available so engaging the relevant people is important for the work to be done.



## Next Steps

- The aseptic technique audit tool has been adopted by the respective department as one of the official evaluation tools.
- All maternity staff will now continue using the self-evaluation audit tool to reinforce competency in practising aseptic technique when providing care during the second stage of labour.





# Acknowledgements

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## References

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