BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO BEST PRACTICES IN MANAGEMENT OF POST PARTUM HAEMORRHAGE AND PREECLAMPSIA AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL IN NIGERIA – PRELIMINARY REPORT

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Background

Haemorrhage and preeclampsia/eclampsia are major causes of maternal mortality in Nigeria. The barriers to best practices in the management of these conditions and the level of implementation at health facilities are not known. FIGO and its member association, SOGON, have launched a project in 2012 which objectives were to advocate best practices to relevant stakeholders and assess the level of compliance in selected health facilities.

METHODS:

The first step was an advocacy workshop for heads of obstetrics and gynaecology departments from 14 tertiary health facilities and officials of the Ministry on best practices. Participants then developed work plans with a view to overcoming the identified institutional challenges. The third step was the follow-up visits to six of the institutions to determine the level of implementation of the work plan.

RESULTS:

Most of the health workers at the workshop identified fake drugs or lack of drugs (oxytocics, magnesium sulphate), no protocols and guidelines, absence of direct supervision and frequent relocation of staff as main barriers to best practices. Within four months of the advocacy, follow-up visits to the hospitals confirm that all mothers receive oxytocics after delivery while there is stocking of magnesium sulphate in the maternities of the hospitals with protocols displayed strategically. Frequent transfer of staff is still an issue.

CONCLUSION: Advocacy and subsequent facilitative visits enhance implementation of best practices in the management of post-partum haemorrhage and pre-eclampsia/eclampsia.

RECOMMENDATION: Extending similar advocacy to secondary and primary health facilities might also enhance best practices more so that they cater for more pregnant women in the country.