IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL EARLY WARNING SCORE CHARTS IN ZIMBABWE – A LOCAL INITIATIVE THAT HAS IMPROVED THE RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF THE UNWELL WOMAN

T. Sibanda\textsuperscript{1}, B. Murove\textsuperscript{2}, A. Smith\textsuperscript{3}, H. Wilcox\textsuperscript{3}, S. Nkau\textsuperscript{2}, S. Moyo\textsuperscript{2}, J. Crofts\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1} Whanganui District Health Board, Wanganui, New Zealand
\textsuperscript{2} Mpilo Central Hospital, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
\textsuperscript{3} North Bristol NHS Trust
\textsuperscript{4} University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Background
Maternal Early Warning Score (MOEWS) charts are recommended to assist the recognition and treatment of the unwell woman. Such patient safety initiatives often fail to be implemented into the local clinical area, perhaps reflecting a lack of local ownership.

Method
In-hospital, obstetric emergencies training days (PROMPT) held at Mpilo Central Hospital (MCH), Zimbabwe during 2012 introduced the concept of MOEWS. A MCH pilot of MOEWS charts commenced in April 2013. MCH staff adapted an existing MOEWS chart, and had 2,000 charts locally printed. PROMPT 2013 includes a MOEWS workshop.

In-patient spot-check audits were conducted before, and one and two months after MOEWS launch. Staff completed a questionnaire at 3 months.

Results
MOEWS Launch
Before 1-month 2-month
Observations only written in notes 41/43(95%) 1/20(5%) 1/11(9%)
Observations plotted on MOEWS n/a 19/20(95%) 10/11(91%)
Trigger reached 24/41(59%) 9/19(47%) 6/10(60%)
Action recorded following trigger 1/24(4%) 6/9(67%) 5/6(83%)
MOEWS chart: Midwives(n=15) Doctors(n=9)
Knowledge of 13(87%) 8(89%)
Location of 14(93%) 7(78%)
Useful 13(87%) 9(100%)
Receive/provide advice/review following trigger 3(20%) always 12(80%) sometimes 4(44%) always 5(56%) sometimes
Suggested improvements 6(40%) 4(44%)

Conclusion
MOEWS have been successfully integrated into practice at MCH. Staff know where to find, are using, and find MOEWS charts helpful.