

Modified Early Obstetrics Warning System (MEOWS) in Manitoba

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TO: All Health Authority CNOs and CMOs

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Women's Health PCT, Lisa Merrill, SH Health Information Services, SH HSIQ Executive

RE: Modified Early Obstetrics Warning System (MEOWS) Vital Sign Record

The **Modified Early Obstetric Warning Score (MEOWS) form** has been developed following provincial consultation across multiple disciplines, including obstetrics, midwifery, and nursing and has been approved for use by the Women's Health Provincial Clinical Team (PCT). The new form has been developed to ensure consistent practice across the province and to reflect best practice in perinatal care.

The MEOWS form is a clinical tool used to monitor the physiological parameters of pregnant and postpartum patients. Its primary purpose is to enable early detection of physical deterioration, ensuring timely intervention and management to improve perinatal outcomes. Key points include:

- **Early Detection:** MEOWS helps in the early recognition of critical illness by tracking vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, temperature, and oxygen saturation.
- **Standardized Monitoring:** It provides a standardized approach to recording and interpreting these vital signs, facilitating consistent monitoring across different healthcare providers.
- **Prompt Response:** A score above a certain threshold triggers a 'call out cascade,' which includes specific instructions for increased monitoring, referral for advice, and immediate actions to be taken.
- **Improved Communication:** MEOWS enhances communication within the multidisciplinary team, ensuring that all members are aware of the patient's condition and the necessary steps to manage any deterioration.

A phased implementation is planned for the MEOWS Vital Sign Record including:

- **Phase 1- January 2025:** Available to support previous EPR implementation in Winnipeg Obstetric and Emergency/Urgent Care sites as a downtime document.
- **Phase 2:** Provincial Obstetric and Emergency/Urgent Care sites outside of Winnipeg (paper version and EPR as applicable) at collaboratively determined intervals.

Communication of further details and implementation materials will be shared with the sites as they prepare to implement.

We appreciate your support as we work to optimize the delivery of evidence-based practice to improve care of pregnant and postpartum patients in the province. If there are any questions regarding MEOWS please contact Angela Matwick, Provincial Program Director, Women and Children Program
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