

ORIGINAL PAPER

Partograph Utilization at Three Levels of Health Care Delivery Services in Ile-Ife, Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: The partograph is considered a valuable tool in the improvement of maternity care that allows for prompt identification of problems of labour but, disparities in its usage across health care facilities have been documented.

Objectives: The study was designed to identify the extent of use of partograph by obstetric staff, assess for correct partograph charting on case files of delivered mothers, and identify factors influencing the use of partograph

Methods: A retrospective design was adopted. Thirty-two health personnel comprising 22 midwives, 5 maternity unit leaders, and 5 community health extension workers (CHEWs) participated in the study, while 304 case files were examined for appropriate partograph charting. Data was also collected using questionnaire, interview schedule, and observation checklist. Data analysis was by descriptive and inferential statistical methods.

Results: Findings showed that only 30.9% and 53.9% of the 304 case files assessed had correct graphical charting of moulding and blood pressure respectively. Interview results showed that partograph charts were not being used at the primary and secondary health care maternity units. Absence of partograph charts (14%), and inadequate knowledge of obstetric staff (14%) were reported as factors militating against the use of the partograph.

Conclusion: The use of the partograph by obstetric staff is still at a low ebb in primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions.

Key words: Attitude, Knowledge, Awareness, Partograph charting.