# IGNITE OB/GYN: Creating a Discharge Greaseboard for Obstetric Patients

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## Problem

- Obstetric patients encounter unique challenges during the discharge process
  - Making quick transitions to and from the hospital with a shorter than average length of stay
  - Admission usually ending with a significant life event – new medical condition, new infant vs acute grief from loss, and/or recovery from surgery
  - Patients who frequently have less regular contact with the healthcare system
  - Discharge involves multiple checkpoints not otherwise captured by the general discharge navigators in Epic
- Discharging patients in the current obstetric process requires a significant amount of back and forth between providers and nursing staff which can lead to frustrations and delays given that providers are also managing the busy L&D unit

## Goals

The goals of the OB/GYN IGNITE Team's project are to create a discharge greaseboard to:
1) Enhance communication between providers and nursing
2) Improve the efficiency and accuracy of the discharge process
3) Address the unique needs of our obstetric population in a systematic way and
4) Provide pathways for comprehensive care for patients with limited access to care outside of pregnancy

## Intervention Design

### Project Development
- OB IGNITE team met to provide list of elements important to include in an obstetric greaseboard
- Sent out survey to L&D providers and all OB nursing staff to gather feedback on the current discharge process (see Table 1)

### Building Greaseboard
- Epic support to build greaseboard into the OB/GYN context
- Identified ways in which essential obstetric discharge elements could be automated into greaseboard
- Biweekly to monthly interdisciplinary team meetings to give feedback on the board build

| | Themes of Feedback on OB Discharge Process | |
|---|---|---|
| | Nursing | Providers |
| **Positives** | • When rounding occurs early<br>• When conditional orders are in well before the time of discharge and instructions are complete<br>• Running the list with the charge nurse<br>• Blue dot "Ready for Discharge" system | • Charge nurse presence during walk rounds<br>• Blue dot "Ready for Discharge" system<br>• Ability to place condition discharge orders<br>• Availability of nursing with individual Voceras |
| | Nursing | Providers |
| **Negatives** | • Lack of orders<br>• Incorrect pharmacies or late entries to Meds2Beds or when it is not available<br>• Patient expectations of discharge immediately after rounds and frustration over delays<br>• Inconsistent communication with the primary nurse versus the charge nurse<br>• Minimal communication regarding discharge for antepartum patients | • Lack of correct pharmacies on file and confirmation of Meds2Beds<br>• Communication significantly decreasing after rounds for patients that need later day discharges<br>• Lapses in communication with primary nurse if only charge nurse was present on rounds<br>• Changes in baby discharge affecting patient decisions<br>• Delayed labs |
| | Nursing | Providers |
| **Suggestions for Improvements** | • Getting conditional orders and Meds2Beds orders prior to rounds<br>• Visual checklist or confirmation for discharge - night nurses can then help<br>• Some form of guaranteed communication with primary nurse | • Confirm pharmacy on admission to the antepartum or postpartum<br>• Clarify follow-up location for patients<br>• Making sure high alert medications are prescribed as Meds2Beds<br>• Having patients make all follow-up appointments before leaving the hospital<br>• Discharge order sets |

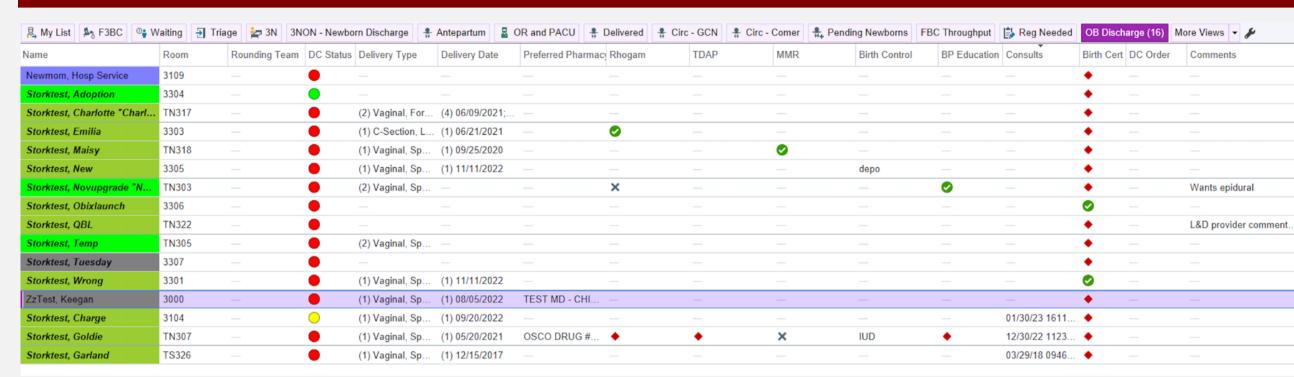Table 1. Results of Pre-intervention Survey

## Results to Date



Figure 1. Beta Build of Discharge Greaseboard

### Greaseboard Elements
- DC Status
  - "Button" to be turned red/yellow/green pending discharge status
- Preferred Pharmacy
- Injections & Immunizations
  - Rhogam, Tdap, MMR
- Preferred Birth Control
  - Free text column to confirm patient has received for Depo and Nexplanon
- Blood Pressure Education
  - Education included as part of the "Remote Patient Monitoring" program that aims to decrease morbidity from hypertensives disorders of pregnancy
- List of Consults
- Birth Certificate Completion
- Discharge Orders
- Postpartum follow-up clinic
  - Column added after initial build to capture location of postpartum follow-up
  - Goal to print report from the greaseboard for outpatient providers to see

## Next Steps

### Implementing the Greaseboard
- Greaseboard currently live and provides/nursing being education on use
- Continuing Epic support to fix identified bugs

### Gathering & Incorporating Feedback
- Perform post implantation survey following 3-6 months of greaseboard use
- Will need to define further metrics for success

## Acknowledgements