



# Expecting You Maternity Department

## OUR TEAM

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- **Bryan Doverspike, DO** Punxsutawney Physician Group OB/Gyn, Physician Lead
- **Dawn Fulton**, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM Nurse Manager, Data Manager/Clinical Lead
- **Deanna Beveridge**, MSN Director of Quality, Team Member
- **Hilary Jacobson**, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, Team Member

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

- No standardized education for patients on urgent maternal warning signs
- No standardized assessment to screen pregnant/postpartum patients for sepsis

## FOCUS AREA

- Providing standardized education at discharge using the following handouts- POST-Birth Warning Signs from AWHONN and the Urgent Maternal Warning Signs from AIM
- Surveying our patients on the effectiveness of the education and what we could do better
- Adding a Maternal Sepsis Screening assessment to the current Sepsis screen in our EMR

## STATUS

- All patients, prior to discharge, receive education using POST-Birth warning signs and Urgent Maternal Warning Signs handouts
- Monthly chart audits conducted on documentation of Sepsis Screen Assessment, MEWS assessment and education provided

## MEASURES

- Placed the educational handouts in all patient's folders and they were also placed on the bathroom doors in all patient rooms and in physician's offices.
- Surveys were sent out to all patients delivering October through January at a week postpartum either by email or USPS and reviewed when received.
- Audits were conducted on education documentation in the EMR of Urgent Maternal Warning signs and who was educated
- Audits also continued with MEWS Assessment documentation on Admission, in Labor and Postpartum,
- Maternal portion of Sepsis Screen was initiated on 12/01/2025 and audits were done on documentation every shift.

## PEERS

**On this topic, our team would like to know from our peers that use Cerner is:  
What screening tool do they use to assess for Maternal Sepsis?**

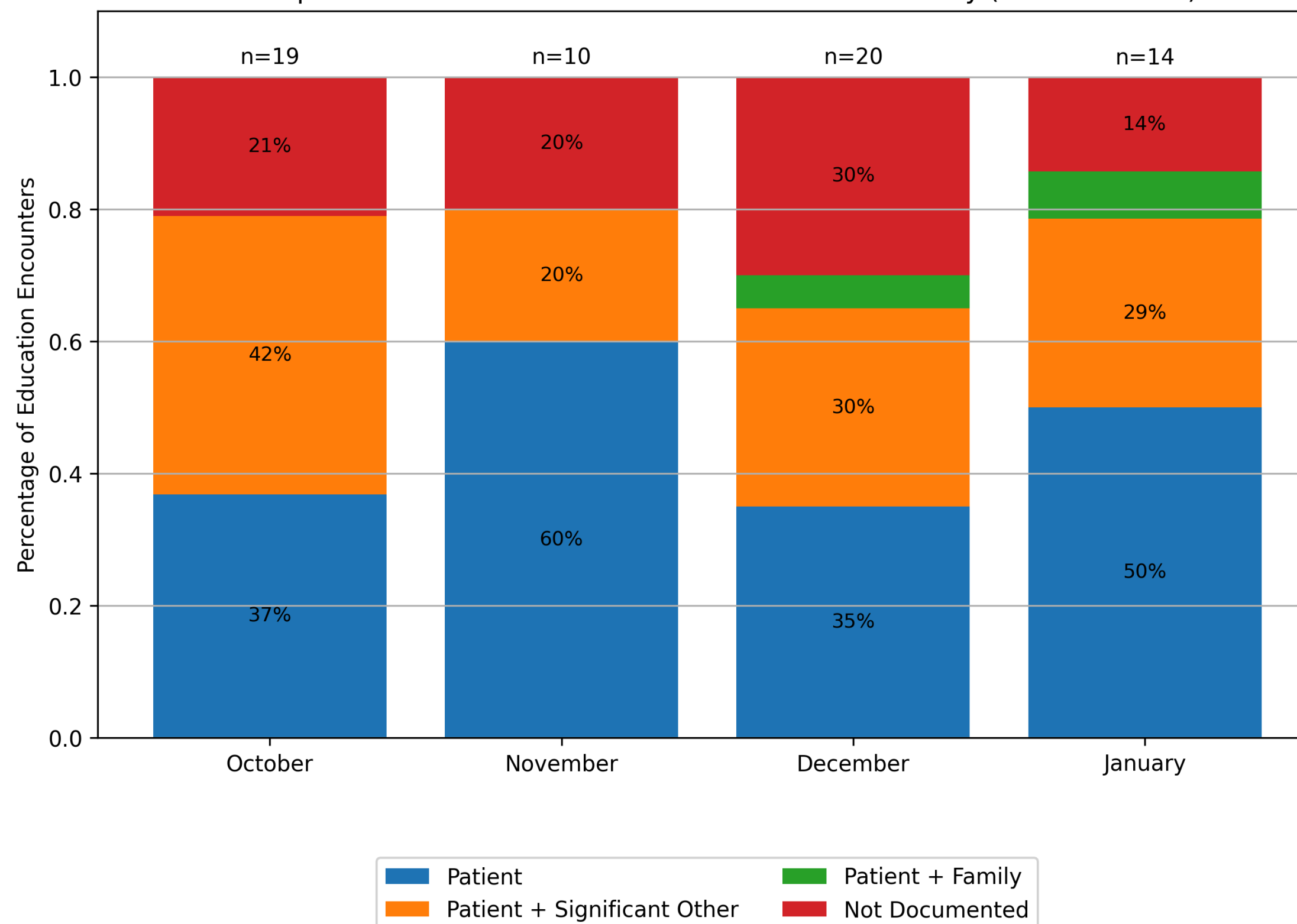
## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Providing standardized and consistent education to all postpartum patients
- Staff education on importance of screening all pregnant and postpartum patients for Sepsis
- Reviewed surveys to see where improvements in our education could be made

## RESULTS

- 59 surveys were distributed, with a return of 15 surveys, and a return rate of 25%
- Received mostly positive feedback, patients felt the instructions were clear and concise and felt that their questions were answered. They also felt very confident that they would recognize the urgent maternal warning signs. One patient felt the signs in the bathroom were good, but she had a longer stay and wasn't sure how helpful they would be during a short stay.
- Maternal Sepsis Screen Assessment audits were completed from December until March with the assessments being completed correctly on average 81% of the time.

OB Sepsis Education Reach and Documentation Reliability (4-Month Trend)



**Sepsis Screening**

Pregnancy

Is the patient 20 weeks pregnant thru day 3 post delivery?  Yes  No

**Level 1- Infection**

\*Infection Criteria Present  Yes  No

As evidenced by any of the following:

- \*Recent Invasive Procedure or Surgery
- \*Fever/Chills
- \*Cough/Shortness of Breath
- \*Central Line
- \*Abdominal Pain
- \*Purulent Wound Drainage
- \*Cellulitis
- \*On Antibiotic Therapy (Not Prophylactic)

**Level 2- SIRS**

SIRS Criteria Present   Temperature >101 or <96.8

Respiratory Rate > 20bpm or PaCO2 < 32 mm Hg

WBC <4k or >12k or Bands >10%

Pulse > 90 bpm

None

SIRS Criteria Present   Temperature >100.4 or <96.8 F  None

Maternal  Respiratory Rate >24 per minute

WBC <4k or >15k or bands >10%

Pulse > 110 bpm

**Level 3 - Organ Dysfunction**

Organ Dysfunction Criteria Present   New/Unexplained Change in Mental Status

Platelets <100,000/ ul

Blood Glucose >140 mg/dl (no DM)

Creatinine >2 mg/dl

Urine Output < 0.5 ml/kg/hr for 2 hrs

Lactic Acid > 2mmol/L

Total Bilirubin > 2mg/dl

SBP <90 or MAP < 65mmHg

SBP decrease > 40mmHg from baseline

SBP decrease > 40mmHg from baseline

Acute Respiratory Failure

INR > 1.5 or aPTT >60 sec

PaO2/ FiO2 ratio < 300

None

Organ Dysfunction Criteria Present   New/Unexplained change in Mental Status

Maternal  Platelets <100,000/uL

Blood Glucose >140mg/dl (no DM)

Creatinine > 1.2 mg/dl

Urine output <0.5 ml/kg/hr for 2 hrs

Lactic Acid > 2mmol/L

Total Bilirubin > 2mg/dl

SBP <85 or MAP <65 mmHg

SBP decrease >40 mmHg from baseline

Acute Respiratory Failure

INR >1,5 or aPTT > 60 sec

PaO2/FiO2 ratio <300

None

**Response**

Sepsis Result Action Taken  No Action Required

Physician Notified

Advance Practice Provider

Physician Previously Notified

Advance Practice Provider Previously Notified

Sepsis Order Set Active

**PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA HOSPITAL**

**Post-Discharge Survey Questions: Maternal Sepsis Education & Empowerment**

At the Punxsutawney Area Hospital, we are committed to improving the care and education we provide to our patients, especially during the critical postpartum period. Your feedback will help us better understand how well we are educating patients about postpartum maternal warning signs and how we can improve this process. This survey is intended for patients and should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Your responses are confidential and will be used solely for quality improvement purposes. No personally identifying information will be shared. Please complete the survey by February 27, 2026. Your input is greatly appreciated and will directly contribute to better care for future patients.

7. Did you feel your concerns or questions were listened to during your stay and after discharge?

Yes

Somewhat

No

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving how we educate patients about maternal warning signs?

1. After your hospital visit, how clear was the information you received about the signs and symptoms of maternal sepsis?

Very clear

Somewhat clear

Not clear

I don't remember receiving this information

2. How confident do you feel in recognizing urgent maternal warning signs if they occur?

Very confident

Somewhat confident

Not confident

3. Do you feel you were encouraged to speak up or seek help if you experienced any warning signs after discharge?

Yes

No

Not sure

4. Since being discharged, have you had any symptoms that made you consider calling or returning to the hospital?

Yes

No

If yes, what did you do?

5. In your own words, how helpful was the education you received about maternal sepsis?

6. What could have been done differently to help you feel more prepared or informed?

Please return survey to: Punxsutawney Area Hospital, Attn: Expecting You  
81 Hillcrest Drive, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

**Scan the QR Code to view the Survey**