

## University of Groningen

### Delay in safe motherhood

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**Supplement 1**  
**Implementing safe motherhood:**  
**Free resources for training in**  
**maternal and neonatal care**

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**Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2011;109:189**



The world is still far from reaching the fifth Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015. Although the number of births attended by a professional has increased, the number of women dying as a result of pregnancy, labor, and delivery remains unacceptably high. It has been proposed that we should now focus on implementation: We know how to save these women's lives, let's start doing it.<sup>1</sup>

Training all health professionals attending births will contribute to the quality of care. However, people at the bedside planning to initiate a training program might be hampered by the time it takes to develop a course or the cost of having to bring teachers in from outside.

We present 3 courses for which the training content can be freely downloaded from the internet.

### **Perinatal Education Program (<http://pepcourse.co.za/>)**

The course is aimed at self-directed learning. It encourages groups of healthcare workers to come together and study in their own time and at their own pace. The program consists of modular maternal and newborn care manuals covering normal labor and delivery and its complications, the normal neonate, feeding, neonatal complications, and communication. Participants are encouraged to find a local resource person to demonstrate and practice skills. Studying one manual usually takes about a year. Recently, 6 additional manuals have been introduced covering perinatal HIV/AIDS, primary newborn care, mother- and baby-friendly care, saving mothers and babies, birth defects, and primary maternal care.

### **Midwifery Education Modules**

**([http://www.who.int/making\\_pregnancy\\_safer/publications/midwifery\\_modules/en/](http://www.who.int/making_pregnancy_safer/publications/midwifery_modules/en/))**

The 6 modules developed by the World Health Organization are aimed at the main causes of maternal death; eclampsia; abortion; prolonged and obstructed labor; postpartum haemorrhage; and sepsis. The program uses a wide range of educational techniques that encourage student participation and are explained coherently in each module. Each module is estimated to take 2 weeks of teaching.

### **Emergency Obstetric Care for Doctors and Midwives**

**([http://www.reproline.jhu.edu/english/2mnh/2obs\\_care/EmOC/index.htm](http://www.reproline.jhu.edu/english/2mnh/2obs_care/EmOC/index.htm))**

This course consists of an extensive package of learning materials: a pre-course knowledge questionnaire; participant's notebook; a trainer guide; and an extensive set of presentation Powerpoint graphics. The producers of this course

recognized that with training alone, participants may not be able to change their behavior. Hence, the course includes a site assessment tool to identify possible barriers to implementing change, and a follow-up tool for continuous support of students and faculty after the course and to assess the effect of the training.

## **Reference List**

1. Freedman LP, Graham WJ, Brazier E, Smith JM, Ensor T, Fauveau V, et al. Practical lessons from global safe motherhood initiatives: time for a new focus on implementation. *Lancet* 2007; 370(9595):1383-91.