Is Your ED Ready for an Imminent Birth?

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Births are a rare occurrence for non-obstetrical hospitals. Deliveries in the emergency department (ED) require nurses to access seldom used equipment and skills to facilitate a successful delivery before one patient quickly becomes two. To mitigate the risks associated with this uncommon event, an obstetrical toolkit is being developed for non-obstetrical ED’s to provide experiential learning for nurses. The toolkit catalogues essential obstetrical equipment and provides low fidelity simulation scenarios suited to the nurse’s novice level obstetrical competency. Simulations include both a normal vaginal delivery and some common complications that arise during and after delivery. Pre and post measures of obstetrical knowledge and self-efficacy for managing an ED birth will be used to assess the effectiveness of the toolkit at preparing non-obstetrical nurses for precipitous deliveries in the ED. The results of this research could inform diverse disciplines on the effectiveness of low fidelity simulation for novice learners.