

feature articles

133 Forever Chemicals (PFAS): An Overview for Maternity and Pediatric Health Care Professionals



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) constitute a large class of chemicals with widespread exposure in the United States. Concerns about the health impacts from PFAS exposures continue to grow as science has linked this chemical family with a wide range of health effects. An overview of this issue and related health concerns is presented in the context of implications for maternity and pediatric patients.

Laura Anderko PhD RN, Emma Pennea MS, Mary Kathryn Cardon, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-PC, Ruth McDermott-Levy, PhD, MPH, RN, Abby Mutic PhD, CNM

141 Labor and Delivery Nurses' Perceptions of Their Colleagues' Attitudes and Behaviors Toward Pregnant Patients with Substance Use



In this study, 154 nurses from 14 Colorado hospitals that represented 45% of the state's 2022 births participated in a survey about attitudes and behaviors towards patients with substance use disorders and mental health concerns. Half of the nurses reported their colleagues have negative attitudes and nearly one-third reported negative behaviors toward patients who disclose substance use. Qualitative data revealed positive behaviors such as supportive clinical care and resource provision for patients disclosing substance use. Mistrust, negative attitudes, lack of compassion towards patients, and instances of substandard clinical care were offered as negative behaviors observed.

Karli Swenson, PhD, MPH, Amber Johnson, DNP, CNM, Gretchen Schulz, MPH, Katie Breen, MPH

151 Bedsharing Perspectives among Latino Caregivers



Bedsharing is an unsafe practice that increases risk of adverse newborn and infant outcomes. In this study 45 caregivers explain factors in their decision-making processes about bedsharing and information that helped them avoid it. Pediatrician advice against bedsharing was a major factor. Findings can help members of the maternity and pediatric health care team advise and inform new parents about bedsharing.

Rachel Barbón, PhD, RN, Jennifer Doering, PhD, RN, FAAN

157 Relationship Between Anxiety and the Birth Experience of Hispanic Adolescents

In this study, effects of anxiety on the birth experience of 127 Hispanic adolescents 13 to 19 years of age without comorbid major depression were explored using a cross-sectional secondary analysis design including subjective rating of the birth experience and anxiety level, and an objective anxiety score using the Edinburg Postnatal Depression Inventory-A (EPDS-A). Self-reported anxiety and type of birth were found to affect their birth experience. Negative birth experiences and potential mental health consequences support postpartum follow-up for at-risk adolescents.

Cheryl Anderson RN, PhD, MN, Analee Gonzalez, RN, BSN

162 Keeping Mothers Together with Their Babies Requiring Neonatal Intensive Care during the Birth Hospitalization: An Innovative Model of Care

Keeping mothers and their newborns together during the birth hospitalization is generally agreed to promote breastfeeding and maternal-infant bonding. When the newborn needs more than level I care, most mother-baby couplets are separated, with the baby cared for in a special care nursery or neonatal intensive care unit while the mother is a patient on the postpartum unit. In this innovative care model, a new unit configuration and leadership initiatives supported a change in practice where newborns requiring level I or level II care remain in the postpartum room with their mother, and both receive the appropriate care based on their needs. A description of the transition to this care model is presented.

Amy Dagestad MBA, MSN, RN, NE-BC, RNC-OB, FAWHONN

168 Education and Evaluation of Electronic Fetal Monitor Interpretation: A Scoping Review



This scoping review covers an assessment of the state of electronic fetal monitoring education and competence evaluation. Although electronic fetal monitoring is commonly used, studies about education and competence validation for clinicians who are expected to interpret fetal monitoring data are limited. There is a need to improve education and evaluation of fetal heart rate tracing interpretation skills including integrating evidenced-based educational design practices and rigorous learner evaluation to ensure safe and accurate interpretations.

Susan H. Hébert, PhD, RN, CHSE, Joel G. Anderson, PhD, CHTP, FGSA, Tami H. Wyatt, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, Suzan Kardong-Edgren, PhD, RN, ANEF, CHSE, FSSH, FAAN

ongoing columns

129 EDITORIAL

Implications of Ongoing Policy Changes at the Federal and State Levels in the United States on the Wellbeing of Women and Children: What Can Nurses Do?

The current administration's actions to dismantle, weaken, or eliminate federal health and social safety nets, educational programs, and financial support systems for families, and turn these systems over to the states, raises extraordinary concerns for those who care for women and children. An overview of these ongoing changes and suggestions for what nurses can do to support education and health care for women and children are offered.

Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RNC, CNS-BC, FAAN and
Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN

176 HOT TOPICS IN MATERNITY NURSING

Emergency Preparedness for Perinatal Patients

Unexpected disasters and the resulting environmental and social conditions may create unique challenges and vulnerabilities for women who are pregnant, postpartum, or lactating and their newborns. A recent American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Statement offers recommendations for disaster preparedness. Our maternity nursing expert, Dr. Wisner summarizes the statement.

Kirsten Wisner, PhD, RNC-OB, CNS, C-EFM, NE-BC

177 HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

Pediatric Readiness in US Emergency Departments

Most children who present to the emergency department at hospitals in the United States are treated in general emergency departments and therefore do not have access to pediatric specialty emergency care, personnel, or equipment due to low volumes. Our pediatric nursing expert, Dr. Beal, explains the National Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment tool and recent data on the state of US emergency departments and the potential to save lives.

Judy A. Beal, DNSc, RN, FNAP, FAAN

178 BREASTFEEDING

Managing Pain During Breastfeeding Initiation

Pain is quite common during the initial days of breastfeeding. Our breastfeeding expert, Dr. Spatz, discusses important research on how to help new breastfeeding mothers anticipate and manage that pain so they can meet their breastfeeding goals.

Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN

179 GLOBAL HEALTH AND NURSING

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM, 2025) report on the state of women's health research in the United States calls for higher prioritization of research on health conditions affecting women and additional funding specifically within the National Institutes of Health. Our global health and nursing expert, Dr. Nist, describes the implications for women in the United States and around the world.

Marliese Nist, PhD, RNC-NIC

180 TOWARD EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

Experts suggest how 6 research articles can be used in nursing practice.

Coordinated by Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN

Comments by: Laura L. Hayman, PhD, MSN, FAAN, FAHA, FPCNA, FSBM, Mary Dawn Koenig, PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM, FAWHONN, Annie Rohan, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN

183 PERINATAL PATIENT SAFETY

Maternity Care Access in Rural United States is in Crisis

Over 500 maternity services have closed in the United States since 2010, and more than one-third of US counties are maternity care deserts. An overview of recent data on rural maternity care is presented.

Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, FAAN

MISSION STATEMENT

MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing's mission is to promote safe, high-quality nursing care based on the most current evidence, standards, and guidelines for nurses practicing in maternity, neonatal, midwifery, and pediatric specialties through dissemination of evidence-based, clinically relevant articles including research, practice, policy, quality improvement, and scholarly reviews. This peer-reviewed journal covers aspects of maternal, neonatal, and pediatric nursing care in the inpatient, outpatient, and community health settings.

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