

## feature articles

### 123 The Doula's Role in Reducing Postpartum Depression: A Narrative Review

NC  
PD

SDC

Postpartum depression affects 10% to 20% of mothers, with higher rates among marginalized communities. Mental health issues contribute to ~22% of pregnancy-related deaths. Doulas provide continuous emotional, physical, and informational support throughout the perinatal continuum. This narrative review synthesizes evidence on doula support and its impact on postpartum depression. Doulas show promise for postpartum depression prevention. Integrating doula support into maternity care requires partnership with the maternity care team and minimizing the multiple barriers to access.

Angela Stanley, DNP, MA, FNP-BC, PHCNS-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Tarnisha Hemphill, DNP, CNM, FACNM, and Linda Cassar, DNP, RNC-OB, CNE

### 131 Improving Nurses' Management of Uterine Tachysystole

Uterine tachysystole is a common risk of induction of labor. In this two-phase study, an artificial intelligence-enabled clinical decision support (cEFM-aiCDS) alert system was added to the electronic fetal monitoring health record as a method to assist labor nurses with timely identification and appropriate management of uterine tachysystole in phase one. Phase 2 added education for the nurses about uterine tachysystole. The clinical decision support system alone was not associated with better practice related to uterine tachysystole, however the addition of education for the nurses was associated with improved care.

Carol Lawrence, PhD, MS, BSN, RNC-OB, CBC, Sharon Cusanza, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CHCP, Leigh Collins, MSN, RN, RNC-OB, NE-BC, C-EFM, C-ONQS, Karen Kolega, DNP, MSN-CNL, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, FAWHONN, Nancy Travis, MS, BSN, RN, CPN, C-ONQS, ANLC, FAWHONN, Carol A. Curran, OGNP, MS, RNC, Roseann K. Civil, MSN, RNC-OB, Sara Harris, DNP, MSN-Ed, RNC-OB, C-EFM, and Joyce Richelle Arand, PhD, MS, APRN, RNC-OB, CPHQ, CHFP

### 141 Associations between TeamBirth Huddles and Trust and Autonomy Among Patients Reporting Complicated Births: A Secondary Analysis of the Oklahoma TeamBirth Study

NC  
PD

SDC

TeamBirth huddles during labor were evaluated for their effect on patient trust and autonomy. The sample included 6,528 women's patient experience surveys from 31 birthing hospitals in Oklahoma that implemented TeamBirth between March 2022 and June 2024. Experiencing a TeamBirth huddle during labor was positively associated with improved patient-reported trust and au-

tonomy across groups, with the strongest effects observed among patients with childbirth complications. Nurses play a key role in implementing the TeamBirth model to enhance patient-centered care and mitigate the potential negative effects of complications on childbirth experiences.

Harini Somanchi, BS, Isabel Griffith, MPH, Vanessa Neergheen, MPH, Joyce K. Edmonds, BSN, MPH, PhD, and Amber Weiseth, DNP, MSN, RN

### 148 Improving Maternal Care in Florida Through Levels of Maternal Care Verification

In response to increasing maternal morbidity and mortality, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine developed an Obstetrical Care Consensus on Levels of Maternal Care outlining four levels of care. This standardization reduces preventable morbidity and mortality by establishing hospital capabilities to ensure the provision of risk-appropriate care. The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative worked with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and The Joint Commission to administer their Maternal Levels of Care Verification Program, resulting in 41 Florida hospitals that represented 55% of Florida births, completing verification. Additional hospitals are in progress. The success of this program will promote safer maternity care in the state of Florida.

Yanna X. Alesafis de Koter, MPH, CPH, Sara Stubben, MPH, CPH, Candace Rouse, DNP, RN, C-EFM, CNS OB, Betsy Wood, BSN, MPH, Linda A. Detman, PhD, and Lori A. Reeves, MPH

### 154 Maternity Care Team Members' Perspectives on Barriers and Facilitators to Integrating Doulas into the Hospital Setting

In this study, 110 maternity care team members in Arkansas participated in an online survey about their perceptions of barriers and facilitators to integrating doulas into the hospital setting. Most of the survey respondents were registered nurses and had prior experience in working with doulas. Overall suggestions were positive, acknowledged potential benefits, and indicated a willingness to invite doulas to be part of the maternity care team.

Pearl A. McElfish, PhD, Amy Ayala, MPH, William Greenfield, MD, Hannah McHardy, RN, IBCLC, Sarah Moore, MS, RN, Sara Sorrell, MA, MPH, Nicole Thornton, MSPH, Nirvana Manning, MD, Jennifer Callaghan-Koru, PhD, Krista Langston, MBA, Anna Strong, MPH, MPS, Jodiane Tritt, JD, Nicolle Fletcher, CD, CLC, and Britni L. Ayers, PhD

### 162 Exploring Parental Needs in the Year Following Perinatal Loss

In this qualitative descriptive study, perinatal loss was viewed through a holistic lens. Ten women who experienced perinatal loss from miscarriage, stillbirth, termination, or please congenital anomalies were interviewed. Despite the ongoing needs of many grieving parents after perinatal loss, follow-up care is not standard practice. Adverse biopsychosocial outcomes associated with perinatal loss are well documented. Prevention of chronic biopsychosocial health conditions following perinatal loss requires a strategic, multiprofessional approach.

Shandeigh N. Berry, PhD, RN, CNE, Rebecca A. Nilson, BSN, RN, and Crystal Verhoff, BSN, RN

# MCN

The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing®

MAY/JUNE 2026 VOL. 51 NO. 3

## ongoing columns

### 122 EDITORIAL

#### How to be Successful in the Revise and Resubmit Process

*An invitation to revise and resubmit your manuscript is encouraging news. Tips for success are offered to avoid common pitfalls, learn from the experience, and promote acceptance with timely publication.*

Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RNC-OB, CNS-BC, FAAN

### 170 WRITING AND RESEARCH TIPS FROM EXPERTS

#### Transitioning a Dissertation or Quality Improvement Project to a Journal Manuscript

*After all the effort involved in a dissertation or quality improvement project, it seems a missed opportunity not to take the next step and share your findings by preparing a manuscript for journal publication. Our writing and research expert in this issue of MCN is Dr. Karen Morin. Dr. Morin offers practical advice on how to transition your dissertation or quality improvement project into a publishable manuscript.*

Karen H. Morin, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, FAWHONN

### 172 HOT TOPICS IN MATERNITY NURSING

#### Updated Vital Statistics on Fetal Mortality in the United States

*A recent National Center for Health Statistics' Vital Statistics report presents data on fetal mortality in the United States, including final data for 2022 and 2023 and provisional data for 2024. Our maternity nursing expert, Dr. Wisner, summarizes the updated vital statistics report and offers suggestions for continuing the trend in improved fetal outcomes.*

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

### 173 HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

#### Measles Elimination Status in the United States

*As vaccination for childhood diseases has decreased, there is greater risk of preventable harm, including contracting measles. Canada has recently lost its measles elimination status, and the United States is on track to do the same. Our pediatric nursing expert, Dr. Beal, explains the most current data and implications for practice.*

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

### 174 BREASTFEEDING

#### Benefits of Breast Crawl in the Laid-Back Position After Birth

*After birth, nurses caring for the new mother and baby are in an ideal position to promote a positive initial breastfeeding session that will lead to a breastfeeding journey according to the mother's plan. Our guest columnist, Holiday Solly, describes how the breast crawl with the mother in the laid-back position during the immediate postpartum can be beneficial in helping the patient achieve their breastfeeding goals.*

Holiday H. Solly, BSN, RN, IBCLC

### 175 GLOBAL HEALTH AND NURSING

#### Effects of War on Maternal-Child Health

*Women and children living in war zone and conflict areas are at risk for various health, social, and political harm. The percentage of women and children in these areas has significantly increased over the last decade. Our global health and nursing expert, Dr. Nist, covers the current situation and ongoing challenges facing families experiencing their countries at war.*

Marliese Dion Nist, PhD, RNC-NIC

### 176 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: Mary Dawn Koenig, PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM, FAWHONN, FAAN, Eileen T. Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN

### 179 PERINATAL PATIENT SAFETY

#### Access to Pediatric and Maternity Care in the United States is Becoming More Challenging for Many Families due to Decreasing Services and Closure of Specialty Units

*Recent reports highlight the inequities in access to pediatric and maternity care based on where patients live. Poor reimbursement and payment structures that are not favorable to rural hospitals or low volume specialty care units have caused many hospitals to scale back or close pediatric and maternity services. Current data on reduction in access to pediatric and maternity care in the United States are presented.*

Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RNC-OB, 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.

**MCN Information for Authors is available at [www.mcnjournal.com](http://www.mcnjournal.com), click on Journal Info.**

When citing an article from this Journal in your CV or in a reference list, please use the Journal's complete name every time:

"MCN, The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing"