

feature articles

259 Black Mothers, Exclusive Breastfeeding, and Nursing Care

In this study, authors examined whether exclusive breastmilk feeding rates are lower in hospitals with more Black women giving birth and whether nursing resources moderate racial disparities. The sample included 157 hospitals from California, Florida, and New Jersey. Black race was significantly associated with lower exclusive breastfeeding. A 10-percentage-point increase in the number of Black mothers giving birth in a hospital corresponded with a 4.4-point decrease in exclusive breastfeeding. Improving nurse staffing and nursing work environments may improve exclusive breastmilk feeding rates in hospitals.

Aleigha Mason, PhD, RN, Rebecca R. S. Clark, PhD, MSN, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC, FAAN, Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FAWHONN, and Eileen T. Lake, PhD, RN, FAAN

266 Lived Experiences of Labor and Delivery Nurses Caring for Mothers with Stillbirth

NC
PD

Each year, an estimated 3 million babies are stillborn worldwide, including about 19,800 in the United States. Nurses are essential in caring for families with perinatal loss. This study sought to explore and understand the lived experience of labor and delivery nurses caring for mothers who have experienced stillbirth via in-depth interviews. Five major themes were identified: bearing witness to grief, confidence over time, caring for each other, an honor and a privilege, and nursing presence.

Kathleen A. DeMarco, PhD, NEA-BC, CPHQ, RN, and Valerie L. Simpson, MPH, RN

273 Perinatal Opioid-Related Disorder Care Across Nursing and Community Settings: A Scoping Review

SDC

In this scoping review, 15 articles describing certified nurse midwives, community-based pharmacists, and community health support in caring for perinatal opioid use disorder were included. Pregnant and postpartum individuals affected by opioid use disorder experience barriers to accessing medications for opioid use disorder and engagement in treatment. Nursing-led approaches that integrate community and pharmacy may help close care gaps, especially in rural areas.

Tracy Hellem, PhD, RN, Lindsay L. Benes, PhD, RN, and Marcy Hanson, PhD, MSN, RN

279 Pasteurized Donor Human Milk in Healthy Infants

Limited research exists examining the use of pasteurized donor human milk in healthy and non-critically ill infants. To inform care for families using pasteurized donor human milk, three case exemplars of the experiences of families who used pasteurized donor human milk supplementation in the birth hospital for their healthy infants are presented.

Nicole Conover, MSN, APN, CPNP-PC, IBCLC, and Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAWHONN, FAAN

286 Breastfeeding When Mothers Return to Work from Home

SDC

In this study, the experiences of mothers who returned to work while breastfeeding were explored. Understanding the complexities of breastfeeding while working from home is critical for both nurses and employers. Results highlight the need for tailored support systems that assist mothers in maintaining the breastfeeding relationship, whether they work remotely or return to traditional office settings.

Natsuko K. Wood, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, Kathleen R. Helfrich-Miller, PhD, CCC, and Ann M. Dyer, MS

293 Neonatal Hyperthyroidism: Case Report and Literature Review

NC
PD

Fetal and neonatal hyperthyroidism are rare, but severe conditions caused by transplacental passage of thyrotropin receptor antibodies from a pregnant patient with current or past Graves disease. A case of a late preterm infant who developed thyrotoxicosis secondary to maternal Graves disease treated with radioactive iodine is presented, followed by a review of the literature, clinical implications, and best practices on the diagnosis and treatment of neonatal hyperthyroidism.

Emily Sowa, BSN, RN, and Sharon Anderson, DNP, APN, NNP-BC, AGN-BC, CNE

ongoing columns

258 GUEST EDITORIAL

People Over Policies: Reorienting Our C.A.R.E.

Dr. Runyon proposes reorienting nursing practice by centering Consent, Autonomy, Respect, and Equity (C.A.R.E.) as a clinical compass to evaluate every patient interaction. The C.A.R.E. framework should be used to create policies that support patients and nurses. It is not an extra task, but rather the return to our core nursing identity. Amidst a sea of systemic contradictions, patients and nurses deserve interactions that realign with nursing's tenets of ethics and advocacy.

Maggie Runyon, PhD, MSN, RNC-OB, CYT-500

299 WRITING AND RESEARCH TIPS FROM EXPERTS APA Citation Accuracy and Citation Programs

Citation management programs can be valuable in organizing and formatting references for scholarly activities, however they have limitations. Our writing and research expert in this issue of MCN is Dr. Tracy Vitale. Dr. Vitale summarizes some of the challenges and opportunities of using current citation management programs for journal article preparation.

Tracy R. Vitale, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, NE-BC, CNE, FAAN

300 HOT TOPICS IN MATERNITY NURSING

Recommendations for the Measurement and Reduction of Severe Maternal Morbidity from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Severe maternal morbidity continues to rise, however, variations in definitions and measurement challenge development of reduction strategies. Our maternity nursing expert, Dr. Wisner, reports on a new committee statement on severe maternal morbidity from our colleagues at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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

301 HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Pediatric Nursing: Benefits, Concerns, Next Steps

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being integrated into clinical care. Our pediatric nursing expert, Dr. Beal, covers some of the recent research on artificial intelligence in health care and specifically in pediatric nursing.

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

302 Breastfeeding

Nurses Can Make the Lactation Journey Better

Breastfeeding can be very challenging for some families. Nurses are integral to promoting the breastfeeding experience that each woman and their family desire. Our breastfeeding expert, Dr. Spatz, discusses the many ways nurses can help breastfeeding families meet their goals.

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

303 GLOBAL HEALTH AND NURSING

Global Policies for Parental Leave

Policies on parental leave vary widely globally. The United States is only one of two high-income countries that does not have parental leave after giving birth. Patients whose babies are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit are especially vulnerable on their employment status if the hospital stay is more than a few days. Our global health and nursing expert, Dr. Nist, explains the situation with other countries and shares information about new legislation in Colorado for parental leave.

Marliese Dion Nist, PhD, RNC-NIC

304 TOWARD EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

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

Coordinated by Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, NNP-BC, CPNP-PC, FAAN, FAAN

Comments by: Catherine R. Harris, BSN, RN, CLC
Aviva Kleinman, BSN, MHPE, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, IBCLC, and Bailey E. Martin, PhD, RN, C-EFM

307 PERINATAL PATIENT SAFETY

Mothers Are Dying Waiting for Code Blue

Behind nearly every preventable maternal death, early warning signs were present for hours, yet escalation was delayed. Abnormal vital signs, increasing concern, and patient or eyewitnesses reported worsening symptoms, but timely bedside evaluation did not occur. Failure is rarely a lack of knowledge, but rather a failure of response speed. Our guest columnist Dr. Post advocates use of maternal code blue to promote maternal safety and avoid preventable adverse outcomes.

Wendy Post, DNP, MSN, MS, RN, FNE-A

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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