PERINATAL DEPRESSION SCREENING ININPATIENT CARE

Presentation by Allyson Pennington, DNPc, APRN FNP-BC CCRN March 18th, 2025

BACKGROUND

Perinatal depression (PD) refers to depression that occurs during pregnancy or within the first year after childbirth. It encompasses both **prenatal depression** (during pregnancy) and **postpartum depression** (after childbirth). Perinatal depression can affect mothers, fathers, and even adoptive parents.

Untreated perinatal depression can lead to:

- Lack in Energy & Loss of Interest
- Persistent Sadness, Hopelessness, or Emptyness
- Irritability & Agitation
- Thoughts of Self-Harm or Suicide



1 IN 7 PATIENTS EXPERIENCING A PREGNANCY DEVELOP PERINATAL DEPRESSION

INTRODUCTION TO INPATIENT



Reasons to Admit to Inpatient..

Pregnancy Complications
Scheduled Procedures
Complications with the Baby
Maternal Health Concerns
Emergencies



PROBLEMS

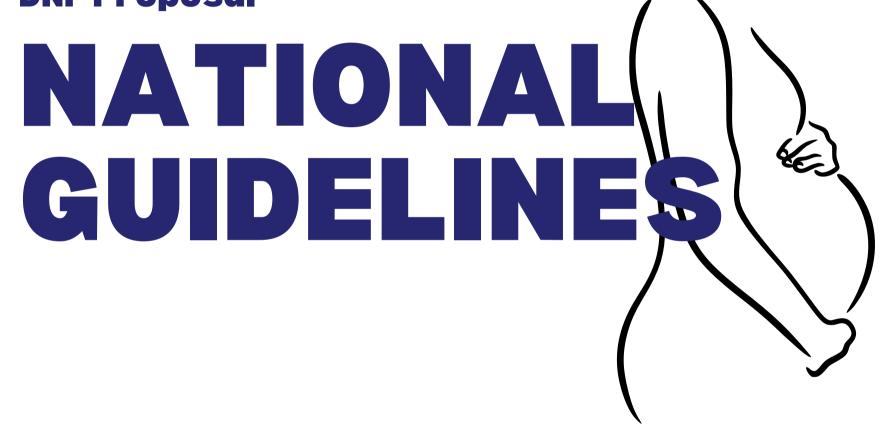
Antepartum patients presenting with complications are not recieving typical prenatal care. While inpatient, patients are not following their regular routines - which puts them at higher risk for developing perinatal depression.

Skewed Prenatal Care

Prenatal Care includes medical and emotional interventions and surveillance to monitor the pregnancy. When transferring obstetric care from outpatient to inpatient, a lot of screening protocols and recommendations are not utilized..

Heightened Risk Factors

Difficult or traumatic birth
Little or not support from family, friends, or partners
Stressull life events, financial and relationship problems
Premature delivery or admission to the neonatal intensive care



American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

ACOG recommends that screening for perinatal depression and anxiety occur at the initial prenatal visit, later in pregnancy, and at postpartum visits using a standardized, validated instrument.

United States Preventitve Services Task Force

The USPSTF recommends screening for depression in adults, including pregnant and postpartum women.

American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that pediatricians screen mothers for postpartum depression (PPD) at the infant's 1, 2, 4, and 6-month well child (WC) visits.

PICOT

In antepartum patients admitted to the hospital, does the use of the EPDS screening tool throughout admission allow healthcare workers to identify and facilitate frequent follow-up and treatment for patients at risk for developing perinatal depression?





Literature search performed with the Boolean Search phrase, ("perinatal mood disorder screening AND inpatient") AND Depression AND ("Screening Tools" OR "Screening Tool") PubMed: 31

Scopus: 26

Web of Science: 10

CINAHL: 7

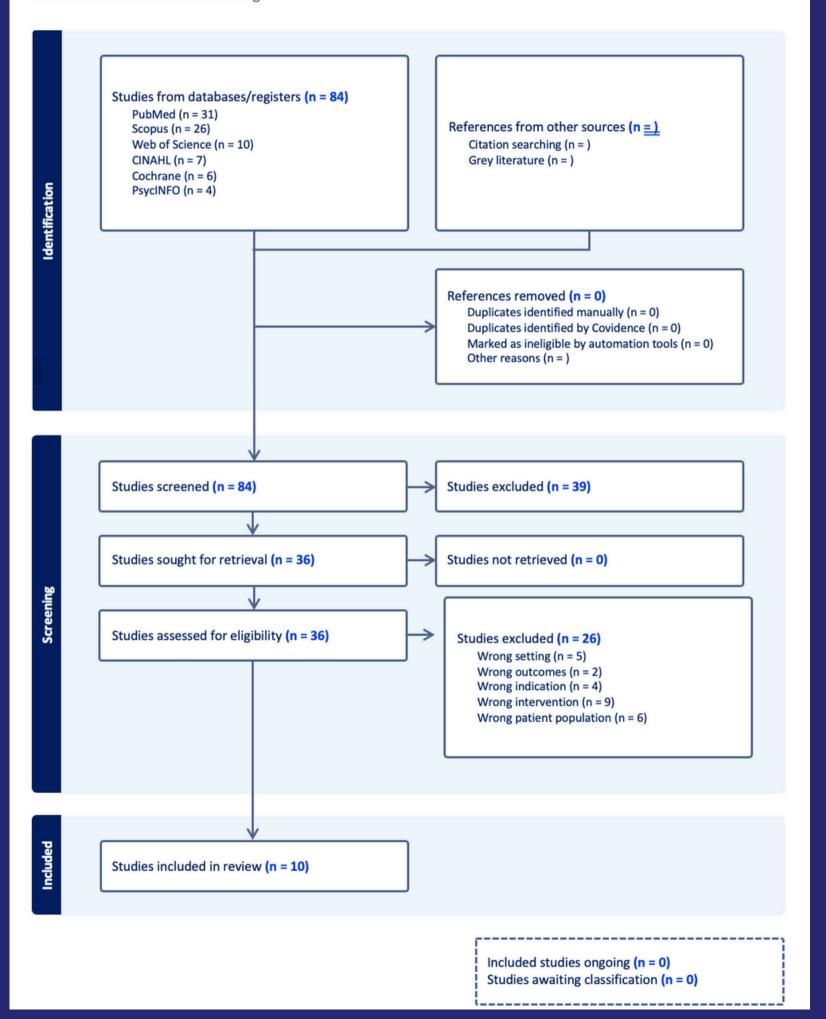
Cochrane: 6

PsycINFO: 4

PRISMA DIAGRAM

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.

Perinatal Mood Disorder Screening

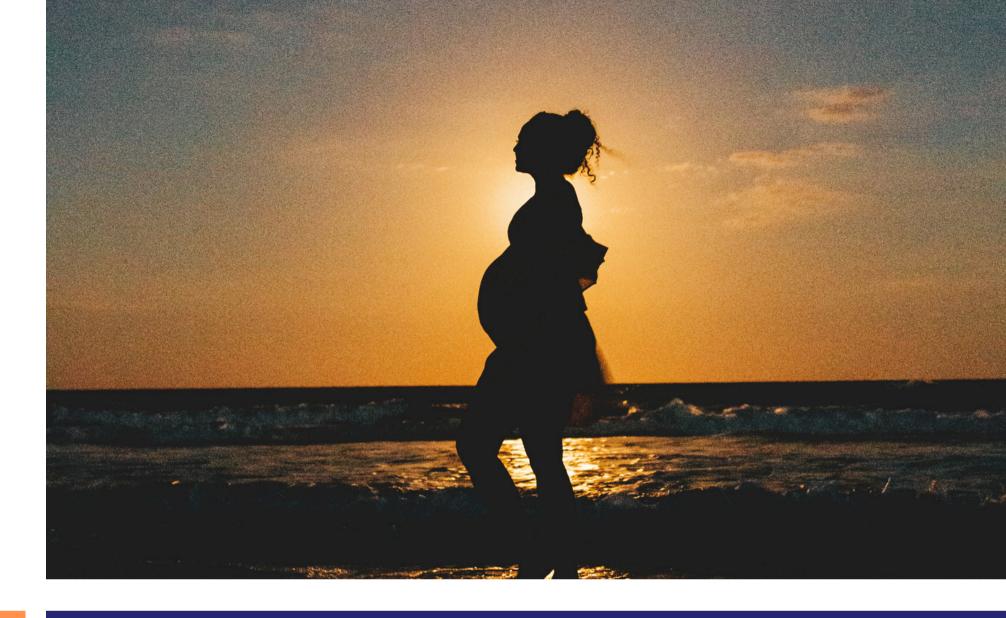


SYNTHESIS

All articles analyzed **recommended**using a validated screening tool during
the prenatal and postnatal period



The EPDS is a 10-item self-report questionnaire specifically designed to screen for symptoms of depression in the perinatal period. It focuses on feelings of sadness, anxiety, guilt, and suicidal thoughts, among other symptoms. It has been validated for the use in the perinatal population and has been found to be sensitive and specific in detecting postpartum depression.



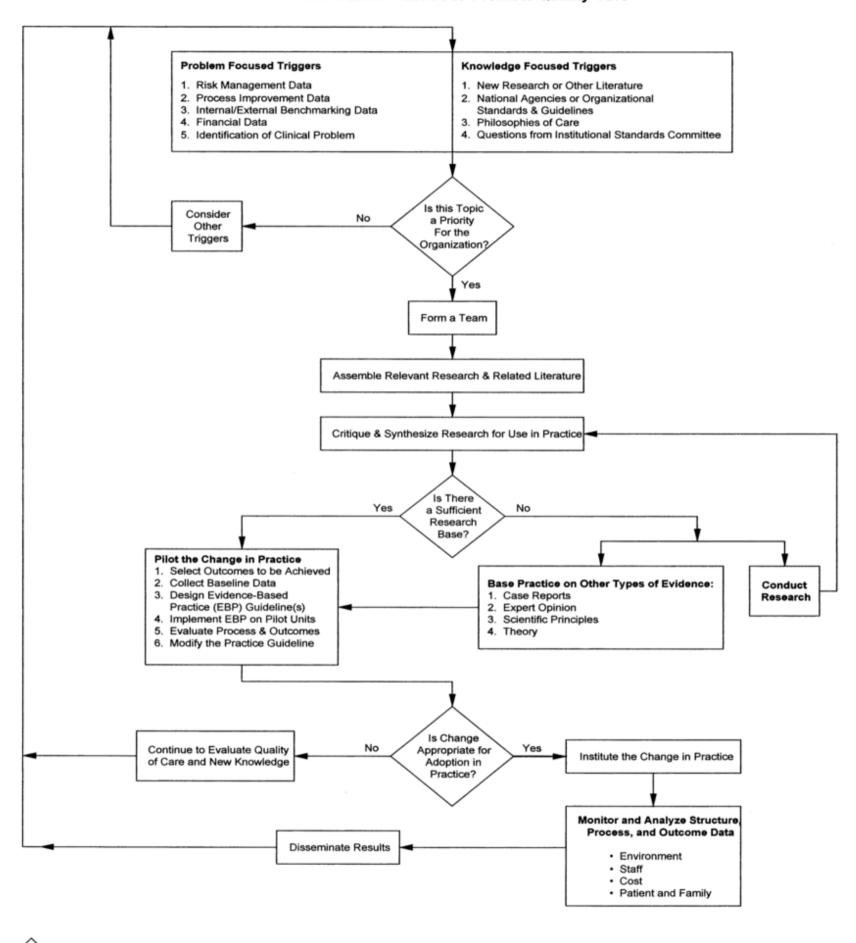
PHQ-9

PHQ is a broader screening tool that measures symptoms of depression and anxiety across a range of populations, including perinatal period. It consists of 9 questions that assess symptoms of depression and has been validated for the use in primary care settings.

EVIDENCE BASED PROJECT DESIGN



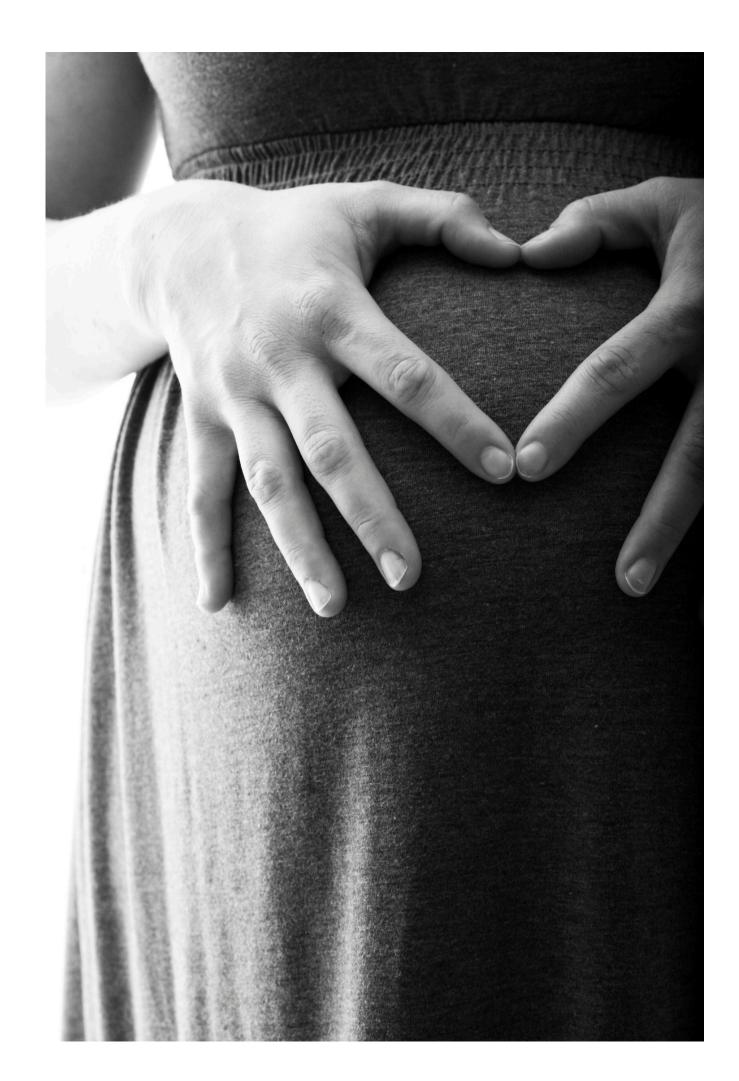
The Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice to Promote Quality Care



IOWA MODEL

- Identifying an issue or opportunity,
- Stating the purpose,
- Forming a team,
- Assembling, appraising, and synthesizing the body of evidence,
- Designing and piloting the practice change,
- Integrating and sustaining the practice change, and.
- Dissemination.





SETTING

Integrated academic medical center that includes a level 1 trauma center, a level IV NICU, the first NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Nationally Recognized Children's and Women's hospital

Among the top 100 hospitals and health systems with great women's health programs. (Becker's Review)

Consistently recognized as one of the Best Maternity Hospitals in the United States (Newsweek)



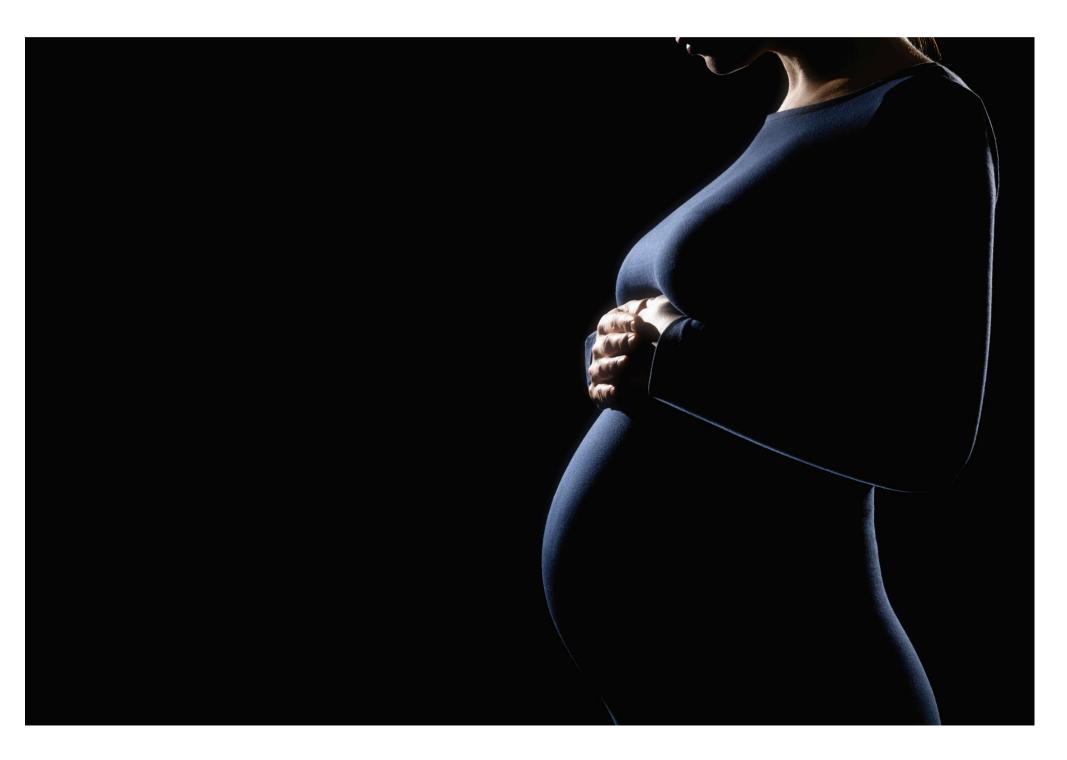
Medical Professionals

- Obstetrics and Gynecology Department:
 Director of Labor and Delivery and
 Antepartum divisions
- Medical and Nursing Providers

Academic Professionals

- Doctorate of Nursing Practice Advisor and Second Reader
- Electronic Medical Record Liaison
- Medical Librarian and Statistician

PRACTICE CHANGE



This academic center screens for perinatal mood disorders during routine prenatal care at the 28th week gestation visit, there is no current protocol in place for screening when patients are admitted to the hospital

PROJECT PURPOSE



The purpose of this project is to create awareness and support for patients that are admitted to the hospital until delivery. Including a perinatal depression screening tool throughout admission will allow providers and medical professionals opportunity to facilitate treatment and provide additional therapy services during the patient's stay.

Maternal-Fetal Complication Inclusion Criteria Indefinite **Pregnant Admission**

DNP Proposal

POPULATION

- Patients that are pregnant
- Patients with a maternal-fetal complication or receiving an indefinite admission
- Indefinite Admission: Receiving a new gestational age range goal to remain pregnant until delivery or continuing to stay inpatient until delivery

<u>Exclusion Criteria:</u> Admitted for routine delivery or expected shortened hospital stay

Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale¹ (EPDS)

ame:	Address:	
our Date of Birth:		
aby's Date of Birth:	Phone:	
s you are pregnant or have recently had a baby, we we answer that comes closest to how you have felt IN		
ere is an example, already completed.		
nave felt happy:		
Yes, all the time		
	elt happy most of the time' during the pa	st week.
No, not very often Please complete the other	questions in the same way.	
No, not at all		
the past 7 days:		
. I have been able to laugh and see the funny side of thing		
 As much as I always could 	Yes, most of the time I haven't b	een able
 Not quite so much now 	to cope at all	
 Definitely not so much now 	 Yes, sometimes I haven't been of 	coping as well
□ Not at all	as usual	
	 No, most of the time I have coped 	
. I have looked forward with enjoyment to things	 No, I have been coping as well a 	is ever
 As much as I ever did 	COMPANY OF THE SECRET S	and the PMT of the order of the order
Rather less than I used to	*7 I have been so unhappy that I have h	ad difficulty siee
Definitely less than I used to Hardly at all		
a nardy at an	 Yes, sometimes Not very often 	
I have blamed myself unnecessarily when things	No. not at all	
went wrong	Pro, flot at all	
Yes, most of the time	*8 I have felt sad or miserable	
	= Yes, most of the time	
Not very often	Yes, guite often	
n No, never	 Not very often 	
	No, not at all	
I have been anxious or womied for no good reason		
□ No, not at all	*9 I have been so unhappy that I have b	een crying
□ Hardly ever	 Yes, most of the time 	
 Yes, sometimes 	 Yes, quite often 	
 Yes, very often 	 Only occasionally 	
I have felt scared or panicky for no very good reason.	p No, never	
Yes, guite a lot	*10 The thought of harming myself has o	coursed to see
Yes, sometimes	Yes, guite often	Courses to me
5 No, not much	n Sometimes	
n No, not at all	□ Hardly ever	
	□ Never	
fministered/Reviewed by	Date	
ource: Cox, J.L., Holden, J.M., and Sagovsky, R. 1987. Detection Inburgh Postnatal Depression Scale. British Journal of Ps		item
ource: K. L. Wisner, B. L. Parry, C. M. Plontek, Postpartum Depre	sion N Engl J Med vol. 347, No 3, July 18, 2002,	
4-199		
	ig they respect copyright by quoting the names	mil Hamil

PRIMARY INSTRUMENT

- Screening tool to identify major depression in pregnant and postpartum women
- 10-Questions
- Self-Administered
- Validated in multiple languages
 - English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Farsi, Korean,
 Etc
- Cut-off value of 13 or higher
 maximized combined sensitivity and
 specificity



DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

Familiarize staff of pilot design and projected work flow

INCORPORATE

Include screening tool within the admission assessment 02

DETERMINE

Assess for eligibility of EPDS after initial admission to inpatient services

EMPATHIZE

Allow screening tool to be administered within 72 hrs of admission

04

COLLECT

Collect scores from clinical staff and EMR systems to assess for additional therapies or interventions

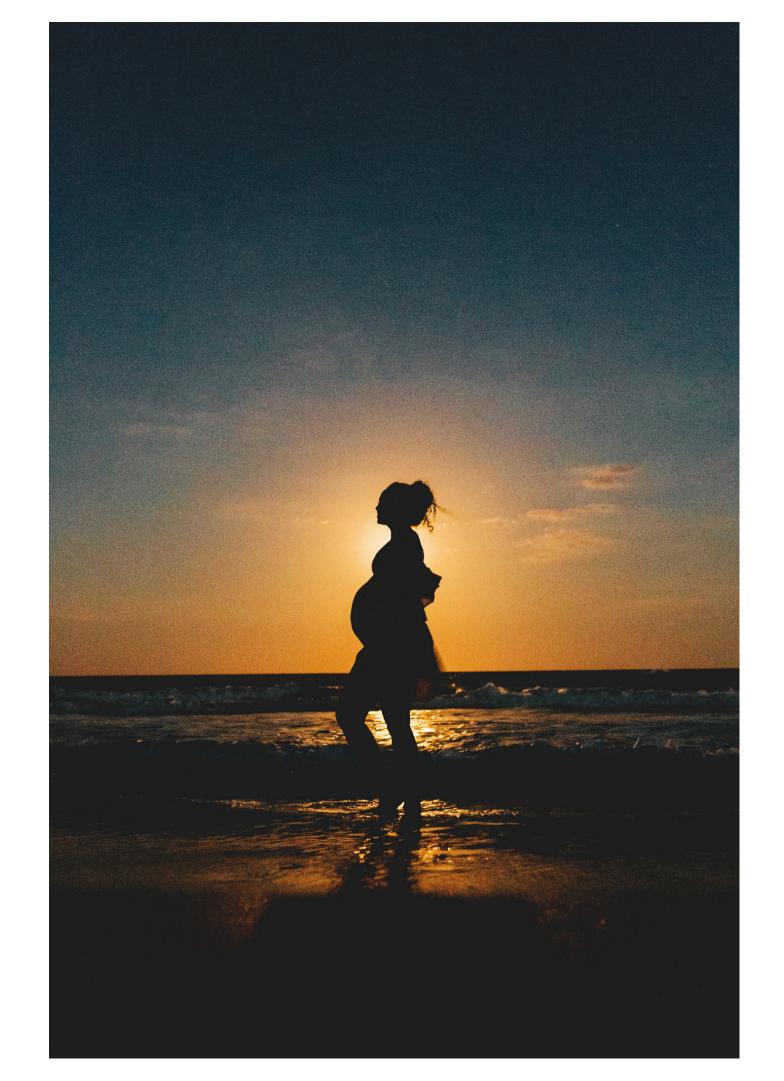
05

*IF INDEFINITE ADMISSION IS LONGER THAN A WEEK, THEN REPEAT EPDS SCORING EVERY SEVEN DAYS



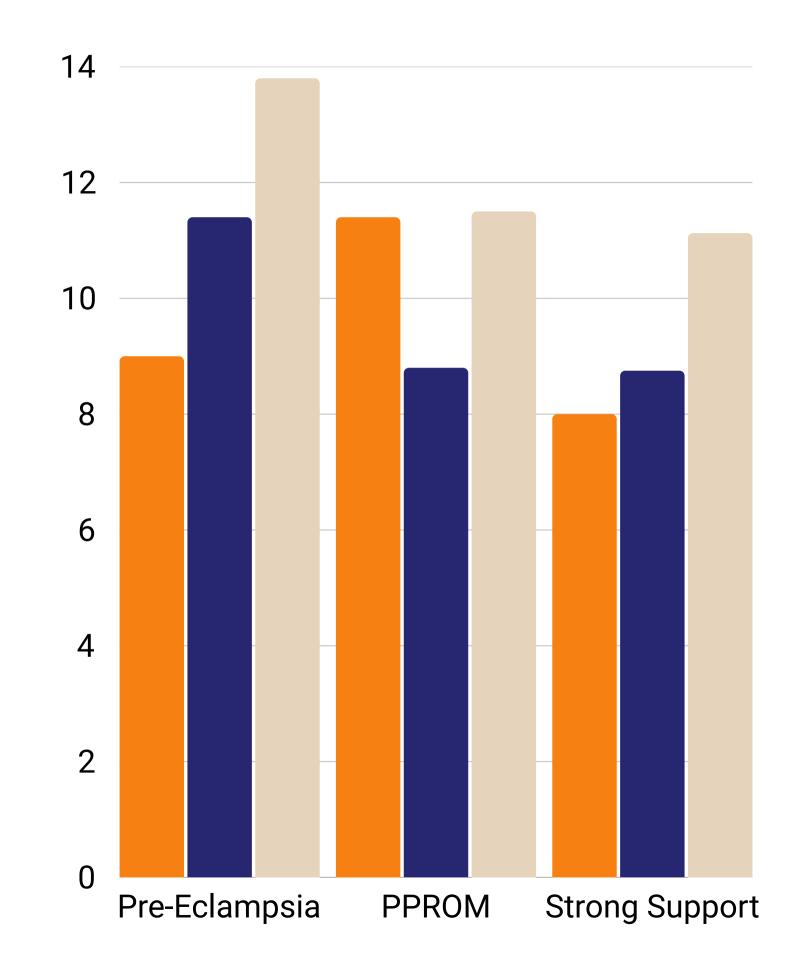
DATA COLLECTION

- 10 weeks of data collection
 - August 26th, 2024 October 28th, 2024
- De-identified Data
- Trending EPDS scores throughout admission if applicable
- Tangible screening forms provided and kept at the charge nurse station for analysis
- Official screening tool results reported using the electronic medical record



DATA ANALYSIS

- Retrospective Chart Review
 - Patients will score negative or positive based off the cut off of 13
- How many patients were correctly screened based off inclusion/exclusion criteria?
- How many patients had care plans adjusted based off of results and what were they?
 - Therapies, Social Work, Psychiatric, etc.
- Correlate the patient's negative or positive result with length of admission and reason for admission
- All de-identified data will be exported and analyzed with descriptive statistics



DATA ANALYSIS

- Orange: Average Initial EPDS Score
- Blue: Average Repeat EPDS Score (+7 days)
- Tan: Average EPDS scoring at 2-3 week postpartum visit
- Pre-Eclampsia EPDS scoring increased with increased length of stay
- Premature-Prelabor rupture of membranes EPDS score has DECREASED with length of stay
- Strong Support Systems AND living within one hour of UVA scored <11 for initial EPDS screen

10

5

0

< 28 wks

> 29 wks

15

DATA ANALYSIS

- Orange: Average Initial EPDS Score
- Blue: Average Repeat EPDS Score (+7 days)
- Tan: Average EPDS scoring at 2-3 week postpartum visit
- Lower gestational age on admission correlated with higher EPDS score. Patients that were in earlier stages of their pregnancy were more likely to have perinatal mood disorders than those with later gestational ages

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Beneficence

- The promotion of good and an obligation of the medical team to act for the benefit of the patient
- Implentation of screening allows potential treatment and care plans to be altered for the patient's benefit

Autonomy

- The right to self-determination and providing adequate information to allow patients to make their own decisions based on their beliefs and values
- Allowing patients to have options for treatment plans for depression. (SW, PT, OT, medications, etc)

SUSTAINABILITY

Strengths:

- Implementation of current guidelines that are nationally supported
- Minimal adjustment to current work flow with no delay in patient care
- Promotes early recognition of perinatal mood disorders and implementation of additional interventions
- EPDS available in multiple languages

Nursing Practice Implications

- Mental Health Awareness and Prevention
- Streamline therapy services and management
- Recognizing Maternal Mood Disorders

Limitations:

- Self-Reporting from Patients
- Limited Sample Size for EBP Pilot

Financial Considerations

No foreseen expenses for design.

Cost may be considered for types of implementations provided to reduce risk of perinatal mood disorders

PRICE OF PRACTICE CHANGE

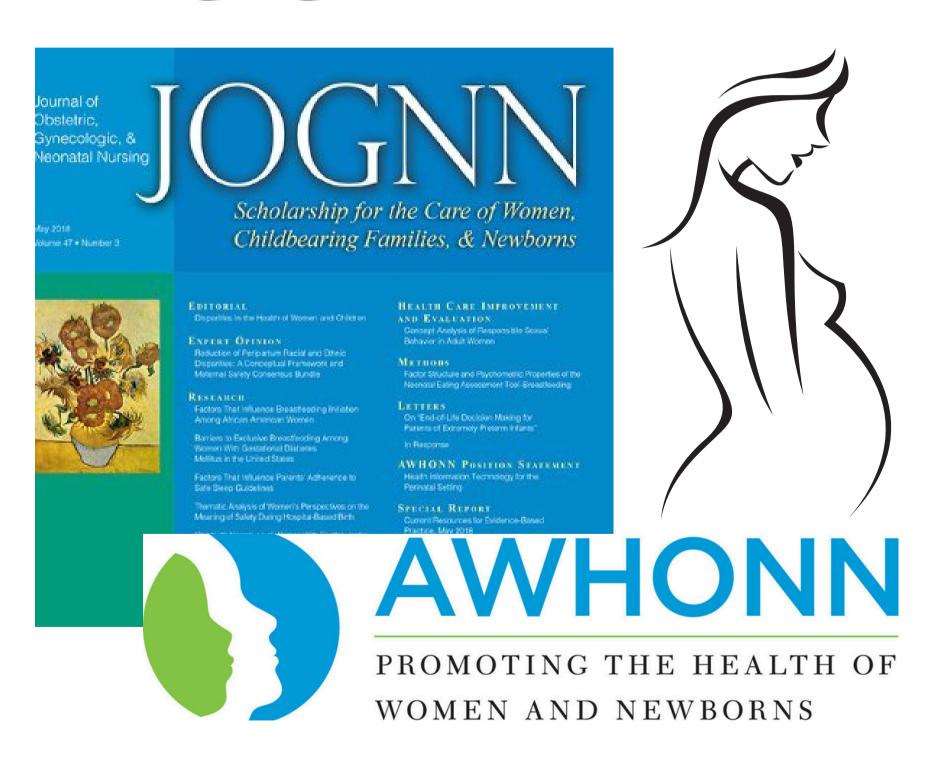
Untreated Depression

- Increased risk of preterm labor and reduced birth weight
- Children born to women with untreated perinatal depression may experience poorer growth, increased risk of infection, altered stress response, and more difficult temperaments.
- Decreased bonding and increase the risk of emotional, cognitive, and behavioral problems in the child

Cost of untreated PMDs for the 2017 birth cohort in the **United States**, projected from conception to 5 years postpartum, was about \$14.0 billion.

(Luca, et al, 2020

DISSEMINATION



Submit an abstract to the Journal of Obstetric,
Gynecologic, & Neonatal
Nursing (JOGNN)

Present at the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) conference in June of 2025





SPECIAL THANK YOU



DR. EVANS

PHD, RN, WHNP-BC SECOND READER



DR. QUATRARA

DNP, RN, CMSRN, ACNS-BC
DNP ADVISOR



UVA OBGYN

OBGYN, MFMS, UROGYN
PRACTICE/FACULTY MENTOR[S]

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