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Utilization of Partograph in the Management of Women in Labor among Nurses Working in Embu County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

A partograph is a graphical representation of the fetal status, maternal status and progress of labor. Its proper interpretation assists in early identification of complications which may lead to morbidity and mortality. The study was to determine the utilization of the partograph in management of women in labor in Embu County. The objectives of the study were to determine the level of utilization of the partograph, and nurses related factors influencing the utilization of the partograph. A cross-sectional study design was conducted in selected hospitals within Embu County. The study population comprised of 124 nurses working in maternity wards. Purposive sampling technique was used to choose health facilities under study while simple random sampling of participants was done. Structured questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data while focused group discussions were conducted and key informants interviewed for qualitative data. Data collected and analyzed using SPSS Version 23 and presented by use of tables, figures, bar charts and narration. Binary logistic regression was used to assess the possible association and strength of association was measured using 95% confidence interval, chi-square was used to check for statistically significant results at a p value of 0.05. The study revealed that, nurses related factors influencing utilization of the partograph included negative attitude and lack of training on partograph use. Majority of nurses working in labor ward felt that partograph use is time consuming and needed supervision on partograph use. In addition, majority of the nurses were not trained on Partograph use from the time they graduated from college. The study recommends policy makers and nursing administrators to ensure that all qualified nurses use the partograph in the care of women in labor.

Keywords: Partograph use, Utilization of the partograph, Partogram use in Kenya

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