

# Postpartum Hemorrhage Cart and Medication Kit Improves Response Time

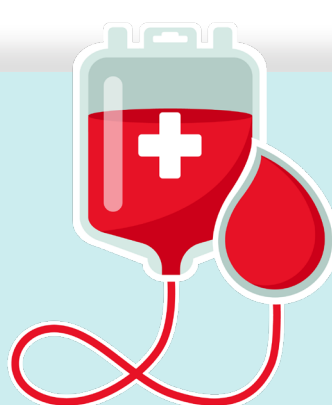


High maternal mortality rates continue to be a problem. And postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal morbidity in the United States. Because delayed treatment of PPH contributes to morbidity and mortality, timely treatment is imperative.



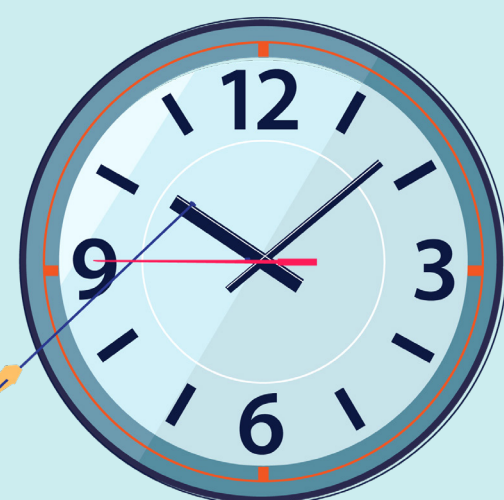
A study from the February 2022 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety (JQPS)* suggests keeping a PPH cart and medication kit conveniently placed in labor and delivery (L&D) units significantly reduces the time needed to obtain essential materials to treat obstetric hemorrhage, enabling health care teams to initiate treatment sooner, which should improve outcomes.

**Maternal mortality rates in the U.S. have risen since the 1980s.**



**PPH is the leading cause of maternal morbidity** and leading contributor to maternal mortality in the U.S. Globally, PPH leads to ~140,000 deaths annually.

**Hemorrhage affects 3-5% of deliveries**



**Timely treatment of PPH is imperative.** Every second of delay can lead to significant blood loss, increasing morbidity and mortality.

**The No. 1 cause of delayed treatment:** Supplies and medications essential for treating PPH are often kept too far from patients, leading to dangerous inefficiencies and delays.

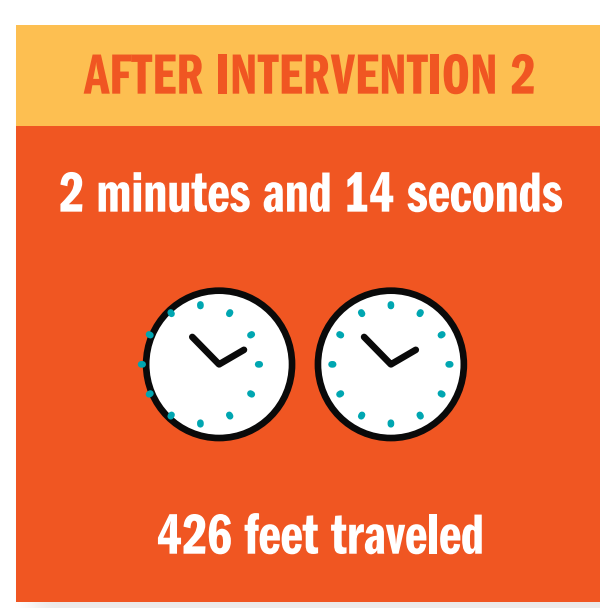
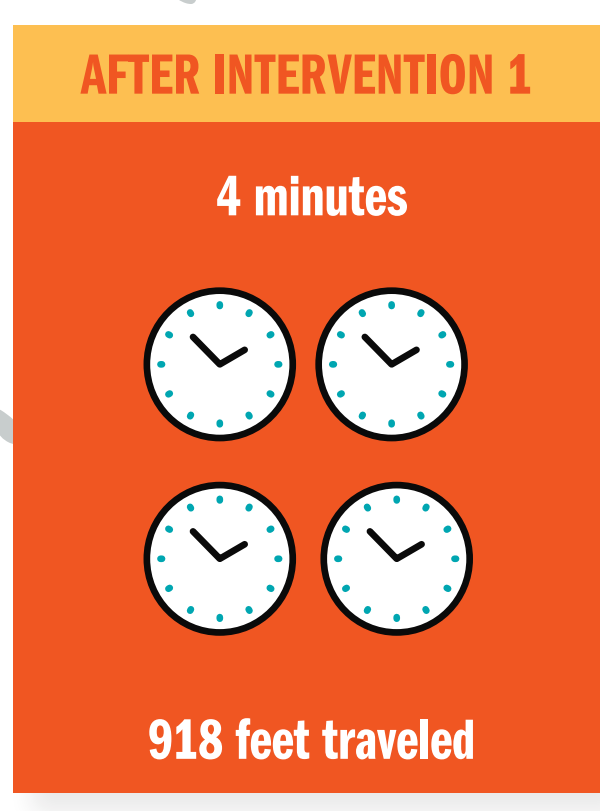
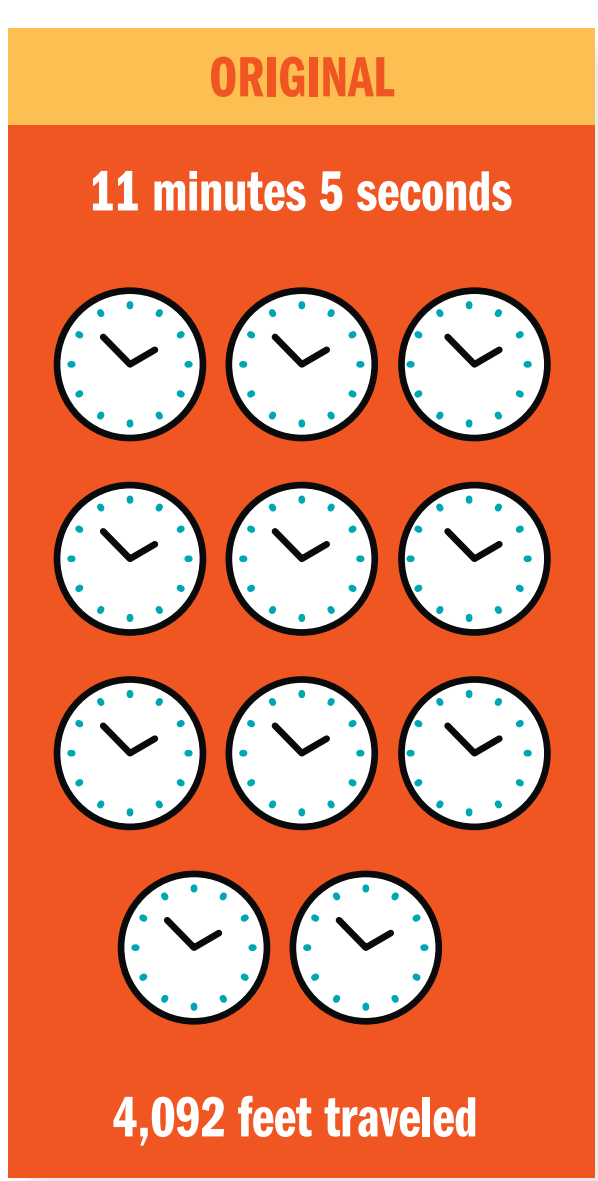
**L&D units should maximize PPH response efficiency by reducing time spent and distance traveled to accumulate materials necessary for PPH treatment.**



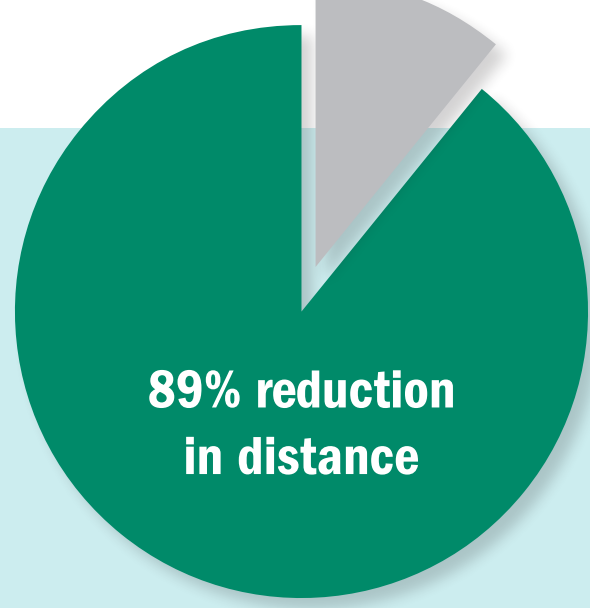
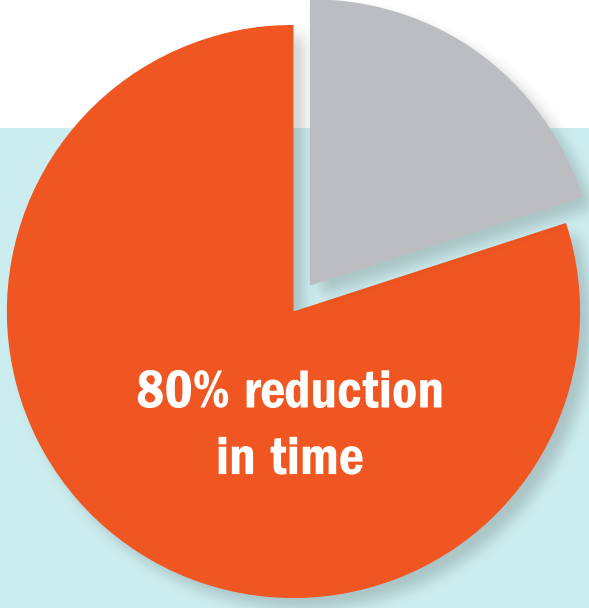
Using Lean Six Sigma tools, the study team constructed a process map to chart the time and distance needed to collect items.

**INTERVENTION 1:**  
A five-drawer, moveable cart was created containing the supplies most used in response to PPH and positioned in a central, easily accessible location.

**INTERVENTION 2:**  
A medication kit was added to the cart with a refrigerated box of all medications typically administered during a PPH.



Together, the interventions reduced the time to acquire a list of PPH response materials from **11 minutes 5 seconds** to **2 minutes 14 seconds** and **reduced distance traveled by 3,666 feet.**



A PPH cart and medication kit can significantly reduce the time and distance traveled to obtain materials necessary to treat hemorrhage, thus optimizing a team's ability to efficiently treat PPH.

To learn more about this study, visit:  
[https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250\(21\)00240-3/fulltext](https://www.jointcommissionjournal.com/article/S1553-7250(21)00240-3/fulltext)