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## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH CARE WARD WITHIN MATERNITY DEPARTMENT

**Introduction and Background:** Estcourt Hospital is a level 2 District Hospital situated at UThukela District. There are 307 usable beds. This Hospital refers all complicated cases to a Regional Hospital.

All high risk patients are screened and referred to a doctor that is allocated for all such cases to eventually confirm the risks and further management.

Maternal and neonatal statistics revealed that most of complications leading to maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality could have been avoided if primary health care system had been strengthened, and also close monitoring with prompt management had been offered to all high risk pregnancies and post-delivery.

**PURPOSE:** is to reduce maternal and infant morbidity & mortality through establishment of a high care ward in order to provide close monitoring and prompt treatment to all high risk women during pregnancy, labor, delivery and post-delivery at the hospital.

### Methodology:

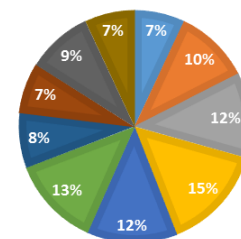
A meeting was conducted in April with hospital management communicating the need of the establishment of a high care ward in maternity department.

Data was collected from the informatics office at the hospital, it therefore analyzed at the perinatal meeting using the descriptive statistic, discussion was in between doctors and nurses, which was very fruitful and recommendations thereof was also in support of the establishment of the high care ward and strengthening of outreach services at primary health services. The high care ward started functioning in the late month of November 2016. There has been a noticeable improvement though more specialized equipment and skills are still needed to maximize its utilization.

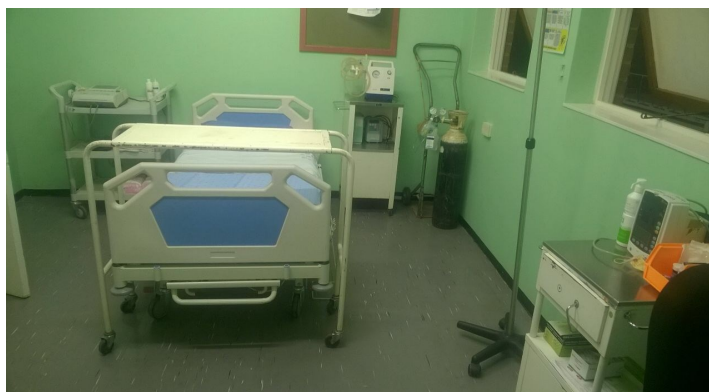


WOMEN WITH OBSTETRIC COMPLICATIONS TRANSFERRED TO SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

■ May-16 ■ June 2016 ■ July 2016 ■ Aug-16 ■ Sep-16  
 ■ Oct-16 ■ Nov-16 ■ Dec-16 ■ Jan-17 ■ Feb 2017



### Estcourt 1 bed maternity High Care



### Recommendations

- ◆ Weekly programmed has been established to improve staff knowledge and skills in monitoring closely and managing obstetrics emergencies, i.e. Drills, audits and death reviews
- ◆ Formation of an adverse event committee, which sits on monthly basis and adhocly.
- ◆ Community involvement on health education to encourage importance of Family Planning and early antenatal visits.
- ◆ Importance of adherence by PHC Team to **Guidelines for Maternity Care in South Africa**

### Conclusion

Since it has started to function a huge difference have been noticed

The following graph illustrates the maternal and neonatal deaths statistics since may 2016—February 2017

