



Maternity staff's knowledge, practices and associated factors to enhance care to women following a Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH).

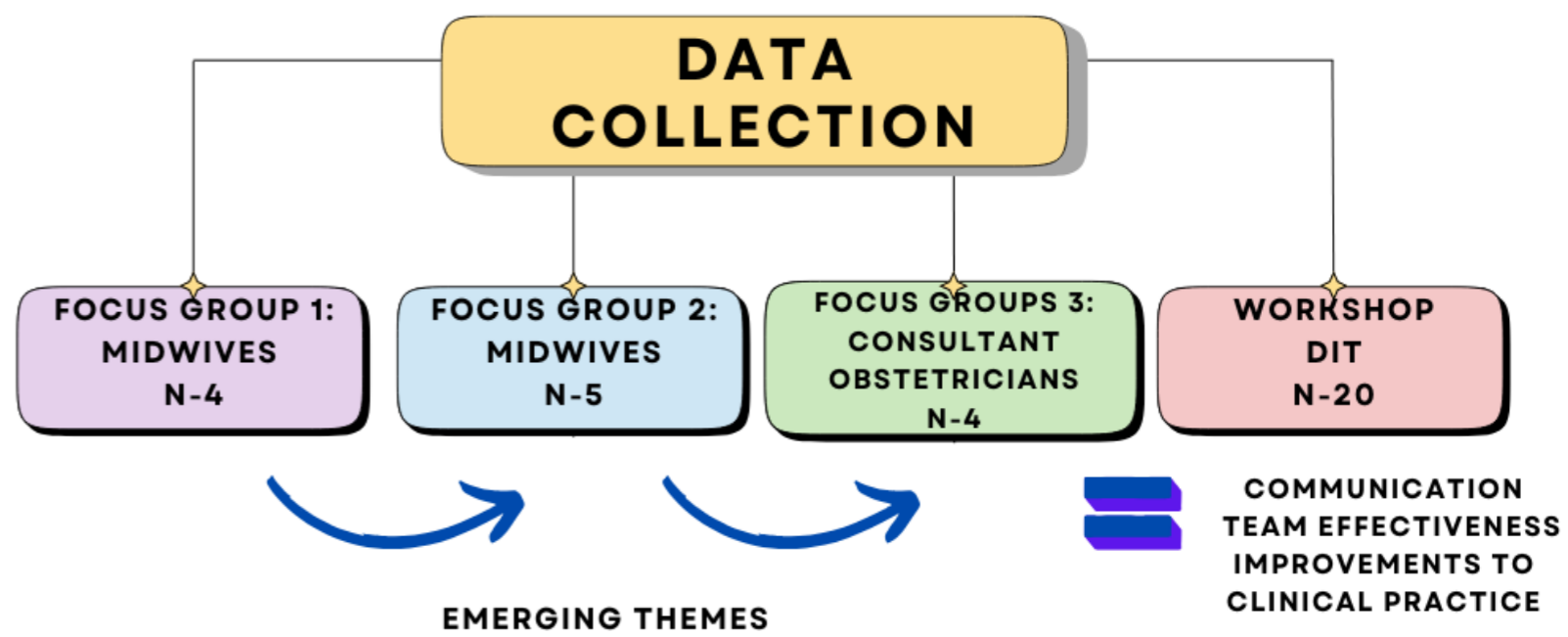
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Introduction and objective

Primary Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is the leading contributor of maternal morbidity and mortality (1). In Ireland, the rate of PPH has quadrupled in the last 17-years (2). Obstetricians and midwives have a significant impact on the birthing experience of women, particularly when medical care is required (3). This study aimed to gain insight from the staff who care for women following a PPH on the current care that is being provided to women in the postnatal period and suggest improvements to enhance care.

Methods

A qualitative descriptive approach was used, with three focus group interviews for midwives and obstetricians and a workshop with three workstations for doctors in training (DIT). There were separate questions for each group as midwives, obstetricians and doctors in training provide care to women in different capacities. The data was analysed using content analysis guided by Graneheim and Ludman (2004)(4). The COREQ qualitative checklist was used to ensure validity.



Results

The participants brought new perspectives and insights to the current care provided to women following a PPH and provided suggestions for future improvement to clinical practice. There were three themes identified- communications, influence of team effectiveness and improvements for clinical practice.

It depends if she's private or public patient - if the women is public there is very little to go on or that is documented for follow up. The private patients can sometimes have better documentation...
Midwife 7.

I was asked to review a woman because the staff thought she was upset.. She was upset that somebody had said to her 'It was touch and go there'.. our language is something that needs education. Consultant Obstetrician 13

Sometimes it can be hard to know (who will) be traumatised after a PPH, ..we tend to focus on the severe bleeds, but a lot of the time, it is the women with the mild PPH.. to review and debrief. We need to be more aware. I think that is missed a lot.
DIT 1.

Conclusion

An algorithm of a plan of care for women following a mild, moderate or severe PPH, an information booklet with suggestions for women to care for themselves physically, emotionally and provide information has been developed as a result of this study. The research identified that further education to the MDT improve the approach and context with communicating to women and offering a debrief appointment 6-9 months after the event.

References

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