

## READINESS

### Every Unit

- Standards for early warning signs, diagnostic criteria, monitoring and treatment of severe preeclampsia/eclampsia (include order sets and algorithms)
- Unit education on protocols, unit-based drills (with post-drill debriefs)
- Process for timely triage and evaluation of pregnant and postpartum women with hypertension including ED and outpatient areas
- Rapid access to medications used for severe hypertension/eclampsia: Medications should be stocked and immediately available on L&D and in other areas where patients may be treated. Include brief guide for administration and dosage.
- System plan for escalation, obtaining appropriate consultation, and maternal transport, as needed

## RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

### Every Patient

- Standard protocol for measurement and assessment of BP and urine protein for all pregnant and postpartum women
- Standard response to maternal early warning signs including listening to and investigating patient symptoms and assessment of labs (e.g. CBC with platelets, AST and ALT)
- Facility-wide standards for educating prenatal and postpartum women on signs and symptoms of hypertension and preeclampsia

## RESPONSE

### Every case of severe hypertension/preeclampsia

- Facility-wide standard protocols with checklists and escalation policies for management and treatment of:
  - Severe hypertension
  - Eclampsia, seizure prophylaxis, and magnesium over-dosage
  - Postpartum presentation of severe hypertension/preeclampsia
- Minimum requirements for protocol:
  - Notification of physician or primary care provider if systolic BP  $\geq$  160 or diastolic BP  $\geq$  110 for two measurements within 15 minutes
  - After the second elevated reading, treatment should be initiated ASAP (preferably within 60 minutes of verification)
  - Includes onset and duration of magnesium sulfate therapy
  - Includes escalation measures for those unresponsive to standard treatment
  - Describes manner and verification of follow-up within 7 to 14 days postpartum
  - Describe postpartum patient education for women with preeclampsia
- Support plan for patients, families, and staff for ICU admissions and serious complications of severe hypertension

## REPORTING/SYSTEMS LEARNING

### Every unit

- Establish a culture of huddles for high risk patients and post-event debriefs to identify successes and opportunities
- Multidisciplinary review of all severe hypertension/eclampsia cases admitted to ICU for systems issues
- Monitor outcomes and process metrics

Note: "Facility-wide" indicates all areas where pregnant or postpartum women receive care. (E.g. L&D, postpartum critical care, emergency department, and others depending on the facility).