

# Dutch obstetric care:

## How liability risk management requires patient participation in debriefing

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## Background

With incidents and claims in obstetric care – thankfully – occurring few and far between, there is only so much you can learn from them. This is why Safety-II focusses on what goes right, instead of what went wrong. In a pilot in Dutch hospitals, clients participate in obstetric team debriefing after delivery. In an implementation study, the postpartum team debriefing with a special debriefing instrument was evaluated. The purpose of the debriefing project is to continuously evaluate and improve team functioning and to optimize the quality of care.

## Method

An evaluation study looked at change in experienced collaboration between care providers through the Obstetric Collaboration Questionnaire, the safety climate through the Safety Attitude Questionnaire and the perceived quality of care by patients through the Pregnancy and Childbirth Questionnaire. In a pre-test in May 2017, 176 care providers and 133 parents of newborn babies completed a questionnaire. An intermediate evaluation took place in September 2017 and the final evaluation in January 2018.

## Outcome

The research shows that the debriefing has a positive effect on the safety climate. The debriefing is not yet routine, but at this stage it already shows some effects on the collaboration in teams and the perceived quality of care.

## Conclusion

Structural involvement of patients in a Safety-II postpartum team debriefing, and acknowledging them as full team members, offers:

- the obstetric team a perfect opportunity to co-create a better patient safety culture around delivery.
- a unique possibility to address and restrain potential liability risks in an early stage.

## Debriefing

Attendees: parents, resident, gynecologist, midwife, nurse, pediatrician  
Focus on collaboration and communication

- What did we do well?
- What could we do differently?
- How do we capture this information to use next time?

### Topics checklist

- Communication: SBAR, closed loop, speak up, time out
- Leadership and team roles
- Collaboration
- Situational awareness
- Decision making

Can we resume our work with a good feeling?

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