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Study confirms maternity patient safety program improves outcomes for mothers and newborns in Canada

Ottawa – The Canadian **MORE^{OB}** patient safety program has a measurable, positive impact on the health of mothers and babies. This is the conclusion of a study featured in the August edition of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, entitled *Outcomes of the Introduction of the MORE^{OB} Continuing Education Program in Alberta*.

“Simply put, this patient safety program saves lives and saves much-needed health care related money,” said Dr. Ken Milne, President and CEO of Salus Global Corporation. “When the **MORE^{OB}** program was first conceived, we were convinced of the need for a patient safety program to improve childbirth outcomes for both mothers and newborns. We are delighted to have research that now clearly confirms the significant impact of our program when it is adopted by hospitals and their staff.”

The evidence shows that the program results in a significant reduction in severe morbidity for newborns, as measured by the rate of serious complications such as respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis and severe intraventricular hemorrhage. With respect to maternal outcomes, there was a significant reduction in third- and fourth-degree tears and length of stay in hospital.

MORE^{OB} (Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently) is a comprehensive, three-year, patient safety, professional development and performance improvement program for caregivers and administrators in hospital obstetrics units. The program structure is based on the proven principles of High Reliability Organizations (HRO’s), including safety as the priority, effective communication, teamwork, decreased hierarchy in emergencies, practice for emergencies, and reflective learning. The program integrates evidence-based professional practice standards and guidelines with current and evolving patient safety concepts, principles and tools.

“We strongly believe that further post-program research will show equally strong results in the other Canadian provinces where hospitals have embraced the program,” said Dr. Milne. “It is our goal to convince all those responsible for maternal and fetal health outcomes to integrate the **MORE^{OB}** program into their hospital environments.”

By learning and working together in their own practice environment, the health-care team is able to use the shared knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors that contribute to safe, effective, patient-centered care in an efficient, collaborative, healthy practice environment.

This study proves that when a patient safety program is introduced as an intensive, long-term continuing education and quality improvement initiative, health outcomes can be significantly impacted.

“**MORE^{OB}** is an innovative program that seeks to ensure that every pregnant woman receives optimal care. With the results of this new study, it is hoped that many other North American hospitals will emulate Alberta, and make **MORE^{OB}** a key component of their hospitals’ training, standards and approach to obstetrical patient care,” added Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).

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About the SOGC

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration, outreach and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, visit www.sogc.org

About MORE^{OB}

The MORE^{OB} Program has been delivering results for more than eight years to thousands of caregivers, their obstetric teams, their hospital's quality performance and to the women they care for. The program was initially developed by the Patient Safety Division of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) as a keystone in their vision of patient safety.

The combined investiture of the SOGC and HIROC has provided the necessary resources to expand the highly successful MORE^{OB} (Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently program) and Advancing with MORE^{OB} programs across Canada and in the United States. MORE^{OB} is currently implemented in 211 hospitals in Canada, and has involved over 10,000 health-care professionals. The program is currently being expanded to the United States under an agreement with the Risk Management & Patient Safety Institute.

The MORE^{OB} program is the signature product of Salus Global Corporation.

About Salus Global Corporation

Salus Global Corporation, established in 2004, is a London, Ontario based Canadian company in the business of providing safety performance programs to hospitals in Canada and beyond. Salus' guiding principle is patient safety. Dr. Ken Milne, President and CEO of Salus is a Canadian obstetrician and the founder of the MORE^{OB} program. For more information visit www.salusgc.com