

LOW INTERVENTION BIRTH EXPERIENCE (LIBE) EDUCATION CHANGES NURSING ATTITUDES

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Purpose

The purpose of this rapid cycle study was to ascertain whether Labor and Delivery nurse attitudes and LIBE supportive practices improve following an educational intervention.

Background and Evidence Review

Labor and Delivery nurses provide the majority of direct, continuous labor support to LIBE patients. Evidence-based studies support the importance of and nurse's responsibility for providing continuous labor support to LIBE patients, and the resultant positive birth outcomes for patients. However in clinical practice the preparedness and comfort levels of nurses to provide LIBE support is limited.

Methods

A mandatory four-hour LIBE educational intervention program was administered to 23 Labor and Delivery nurses. Pre-and post-education Likert-type questionnaires were used to evaluate any changes in staff perceptions and attitudes.

Results

Nursing attitudes improved in support of LIBE following the educational intervention. Post-evaluations reported 13% increase in RN agreement of importance of continuous labor support, 20% increase in RNs preferring LIBE patient assignment, and 86% increased comfort level functioning as LIBE "low tech" nurse.

Conclusions

Future plans for LIBE practice include: (1) continuation of mandatory LIBE RN training, (2) incorporation of LIBE supportive practices into "Routine Intrapartal Order Set", and (3) auditing of LIBE patient records to determine RN support of requested LIBE practices.

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Key words: Labor Support, Attitude to Labor, Low Tech Birth, Birth Plan, Low Intervention Birth, Natural Childbirth

Low Intervention Birth Experience (LIBE) Education Program
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