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Alainna Martin BSN, RNC-OB

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# Remote Electronic Fetal Monitoring at Parkview Warsaw Emergency Department

Alainna Martin, BSN, RNC-OB  
Parkview Whitley Hospital – Family Birthing Center

## Background

Parkview Warsaw is a free-standing emergency care facility that does not offer obstetrical (OB) services. Pregnant patients often present to this facility requiring fetal and maternal assessment. The only option for assessing fetal well-being is to verify fetal heart tones with a hand-held doppler used by the nurse or emergency room (ER) physician/PA. The patients could then be cleared medically and transferred by ambulance to Parkview Whitley for additional fetal monitoring in the OB unit.



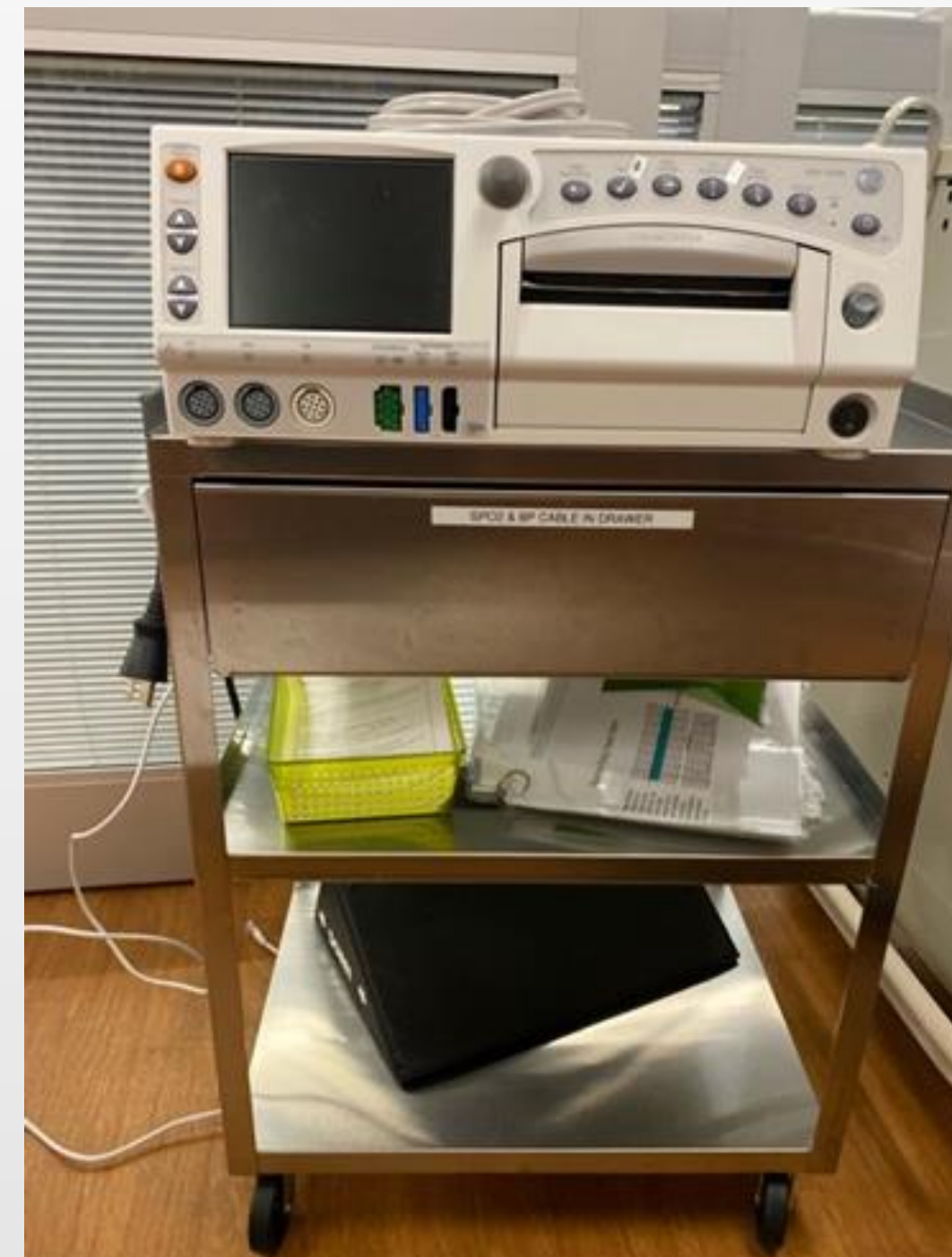
Parkview Whitley is located approximately 22 miles from Parkview Warsaw and the transfer process could take several hours. During this time, fetal well-being could not be adequately assessed with the equipment available.

## Objective

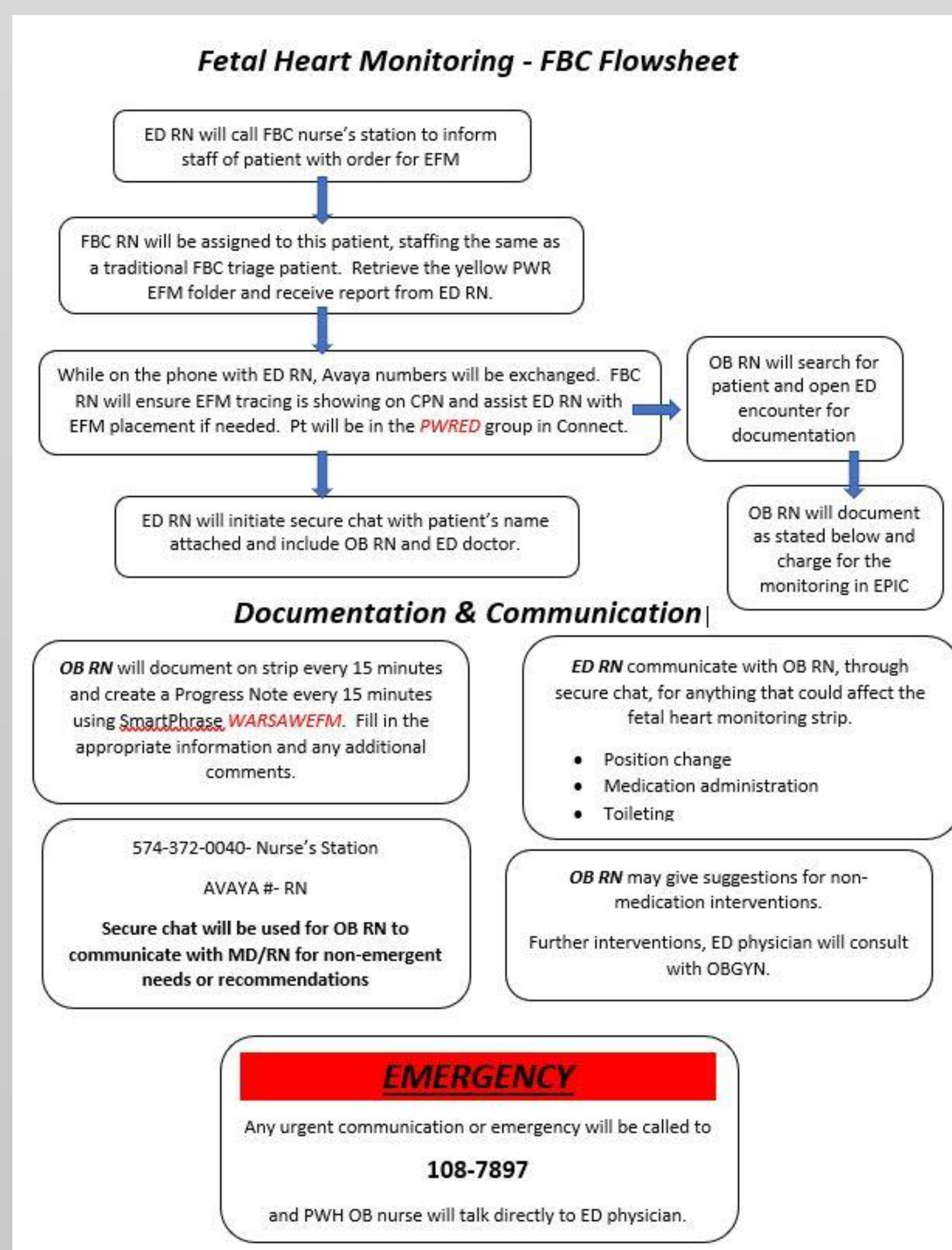
The objective of this project was to provide assessment by a trained OB nurse to verify fetal well-being and maternal stability while awaiting transport and/ or to eliminate the need for transport altogether.

## Methodology

An electronic fetal monitor was purchased for the ER and remote monitoring capability was established between both Parkview Warsaw and Parkview Whitley.



The lead nurse from both facilities developed a workflow and report tool to be used in all monitoring situations. A dedicated phone was installed in the ER to be used in the event of an OB emergency recognized remotely by the OB staff. Nurses from both facilities were given education on policy and procedure, communication, and documentation for monitoring patients. Nurses in the ER received specialized in-person training on how to operate and place the fetal monitors. Nurses in the OB received training on how to access the fetal heartrate strips remotely, how to assist the ER nurse in proper monitor placement, and how to communicate emergent concerns using the dedicated OB phone line.



Parkview Warsaw ED Report Tool

**Emergency Line: 108-7897 PWR Nurse's Station: 574-372-0040**

PWR ED Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FBC Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MRN: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gest Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Total pregnancies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for visit to ED and reason for fetal monitoring: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OB History: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Has there been any reason to have extra ultrasounds and/or testing during this pregnancy? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical History: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contracting? \_\_\_\_\_ How often and when did it start? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bleeding and/or leaking fluid? \_\_\_\_\_ When did it start? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vaginal exam or intercourse in the last 48 hours? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Symptoms of UTI? \_\_\_\_\_ Falls or trauma to the abdomen? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fetal movement present? \_\_\_\_\_ As much as usual? \_\_\_\_\_  
 List any labs done or meds/IV fluids given to the patient since arrival to ED: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any Issues with Monitoring? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pt was:  Sent Home  Transferred to \_\_\_\_\_

## Results

Remote fetal monitoring between Parkview Warsaw and Parkview Whitley went live on July 14, 2021. Since that time, we have successfully monitored approximately 35 patients. This has decreased the number of OB transfers between the facilities.



## Conclusion

Implementing remote fetal monitoring between a free-standing ER and the next higher level of OB care should be considered to improve assessment of fetal well-being and decrease overall OB transfers. Further research is needed to provide exact data on cost-savings related to decreased transfers.

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