

The purpose of this study is to explore caring nurse practice for women in the second stage of labor within the complex health care system. The complexities of second stage labor include intense nurse-patient interaction, family member dynamics, the significant presence of technology, and various health care practitioners. The events of second stage of labor have the potential to become chaotic, compounded by the variance in patient physiology and response along with the individuality of family and health care team members. Within this complex, chaotic environment, nurses in the labor and delivery unit of a midwest community hospital have adapted their practice to meet perinatal standards of quality and safety through the Obstetrics Keystone Project. Additionally, the Relationship Based Care model has been implemented across departments. Integrating this model that focuses on relationships between staff members as well as with the patient with technology and evidence-based standards of care to optimal patient outcomes is termed caring nurse practice. A qualitative exploration regarding nurse perspectives of the influences these initiatives have on their caring nurse practice in the second stage of labor is proposed.