

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SUB-STANDARD INTRAPARTUM CARE IN
MATERNITY WARDS OF SELECTED HOSPITALS IN THE MOPANI DISTRICT,
LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

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DISSERTATION

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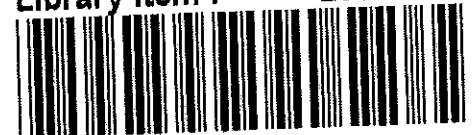
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ABSTRACT

Providing quality patient care is a strategy to reduce maternal and child mortality rates in the maternity wards. According to the National Guideline for Maternity Care in South Africa, it was suggested that the main causes of maternal deaths are related to failure to use health care facilities, inadequacy of services and sub-standard care related to skills and knowledge of health care providers. The purpose of this study was to determine factors influencing sub-standard care in the maternity wards of the selected hospitals of Mopani District, Limpopo Province in order to improve in quality patient care during intrapartum period. A qualitative, exploratory, and descriptive research design was conducted. The population includes ten midwives in maternity wards of the selected hospitals. Data collection was through semi-structured face-to-face individual interviews with midwives who consented to participate in the study. Trustworthiness was ensured through Guba and Lincoln's criteria which are credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. Measures to ensure ethical considerations, which include permission to conduct a research, freedom of choice, informed consent, privacy, beneficence, confidentiality, and anonymity was adhered to throughout the study. Data was analysed through open coding Tech's eight steps of qualitative data. Three themes emerged as factors contributing to sub-standard care, namely; human resource factors as determinants for provision of quality care, material resource factors and systems related factors. Recommendations made were classified under nursing practice, ministerial priorities, education and training and future research. They include strengthening obstetric exposure for newly-trained midwives, improving skills and knowledge development of all midwives rendering maternity care, and involving emergency medical services in the Perinatal review, maternal outreach, and obstetric workshops. In conclusion. the study may contribute on interventions to improve maternal and child health care on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030.