

This section's intention is to guide SMM reviewers through key, condition-specific considerations for chart abstraction and review to ensure sufficient assessment to identify opportunities for quality improvement. This list of questions is not meant to be exhaustive but should serve as a starting point for assessing care based on expert, multidisciplinary review. Determining whether care was timely and appropriate should be based on reviewer judgment in relation to current evidence, policies, and knowledge of facility-specific considerations.

Respectful, Equitable, and Supportive Care

These questions should be considered in addition to condition-specific questions listed below.

- Was documentation in the patient's chart non-stigmatizing and respectful?¹
- Was there documentation of screening for social and structural determinants of health needs?
- Was there documentation of timely referral to identified needed resources and social supports?
- Was there documentation of a referral to social work and/or other support services after the event?

Obstetric Hemorrhage

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Risk factors for hemorrhage in advance of the event, if present
 - Recognition of the obstetric hemorrhage event
 - Recognition of presenting signs of hypovolemia
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Appropriate preparations for an obstetric hemorrhage based on the patient's level of risk
 - Laboratory studies, in an ongoing manner throughout care
 - Administration of fluid replacement, blood, and blood products
 - Management of the obstetric hemorrhage based on etiology and the facility stage-based protocol

¹ See Sun, M., Oliwa, T., Peek, M., & Tung, E. (2022). Negative Patient Descriptors: Documenting Racial Bias in the Electronic Health Record. Health Affairs, 41(2), doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2021.01423.

Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Current or recent pregnancy within the past 12 months to contextualize the hypertensive emergency
 - The hypertensive emergency
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner, if applicable or needed:**
 - Treatment of persistent severe hypertension (systolic or diastolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 160/110 persisting for 15 minutes or greater) within 60 minutes of the first severe range blood pressure reading
 - Administration of magnesium sulfate
 - Delivery at an appropriate gestational age in relation to the patient's hypertensive disease
 - Monitoring for and management of any complications related to the patient's hypertensive disease or treatment
- **If this was a postpartum hypertension readmission, did the patient receive appropriate delivery discharge medications and follow up based on their diagnosis and documented blood pressure prior to initial discharge?**

Thrombotic Disease

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Risk factors for thrombotic disease in advance of the event, if present
 - The thrombotic disease
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Thromboprophylaxis
- **Was an appropriate post-event plan made for anticoagulation?**

Cardiac and Cardiopulmonary Conditions

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Current or recent pregnancy within the past 12 months to contextualize the cardiac condition and/or emergency
 - Patient cardiovascular disease risk or signs and symptoms of cardiac conditions
 - The cardiac condition
 - The cardiac emergency
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Management of the cardiac emergency
 - Consultations with specialists

Infections and Sepsis

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Risk factors for infectious complications
 - The infection
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Treatment of infection or sepsis based on the severity of disease and facility sepsis protocol and guidelines
 - Supportive and resuscitative care

Mental Health Conditions

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Current or recent pregnancy within the past 12 months to contextualize the mental health emergency
 - Perinatal mental health conditions or risk factors for mental health emergencies
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Interventions based on the severity of the mental health emergency and facility protocol
 - Initiation of medications for mental health conditions
 - Safety planning prior to and/or following the mental health emergency
 - Referrals to ongoing care prior to discharge

Substance Use Conditions

- **Were the following available in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Supplies and equipment
 - Medications
 - Personnel and staffing
 - Level of care
- **Were the following recognized in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Current or recent pregnancy within the past 12 months to contextualize the substance use-related emergency
 - The patient's substance use condition(s) and associated risk factors
 - The substance use-related emergency
- **Did the following occur in an appropriate and timely manner:**
 - Interventions based on severity of the substance use-related emergency and facility protocol
 - Counseling for, referrals to, and/or provision of harm reduction strategies
 - Referrals to ongoing care prior to discharge