The Maternal Early Warning System and Urgent Maternal Warning Signs both play an integral role in recognizing and addressing preventable maternal morbidity and mortality. Read below about the difference between the two:

**Audience**

- **MEWS**: Health Care Teams
- **UMWS**: Pregnant and Postpartum people and their support network

**Purpose**

- **MEWS**: Alert care providers of potentially impending critical illness and conditions. Recognition of changes in pregnant and postpartum patient’s vital signs and clinical condition. Effective escalation and prompt evaluation to reduce preventable adverse outcomes.
- **UMWS**: Patient-facing education on urgent signs and symptoms in pregnancy and postpartum warning signs of life-threatening complications. May include professional-facing materials (posters, palm cards) to encourage asking patients about current or recent pregnancy.

**Setting**

- **MEWS**: Hospitals or urgent care settings
- **UMWS**: Anywhere pregnant and postpartum people receive care including, but not limited to outpatient facilities and community settings

**Format**

- **MEWS**: Examples of educational materials
- **UMWS**: Example of a poster or pamphlet for education.

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**AIM**

ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION ON MATERNAL HEALTH