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## Study confirms maternity patient safety program improves outcomes for mothers and newborns in Canada

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**Ottawa** – The Canadian **MORE<sup>OB</sup>** patient safety program has a measurable, positive impact on the health of mothers and babies. This is the conclusion of a study featured in the August edition of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, entitled *Outcomes of the Introduction of the MORE<sup>OB</sup> Continuing Education Program in Alberta*.

“Simply put, this patient safety program saves lives and saves much-needed health care related money,” said Dr. Ken Milne, President and CEO of Salus Global Corporation. “When the **MORE<sup>OB</sup>** program was first conceived, we were convinced of the need for a patient safety program to improve childbirth outcomes for both mothers and newborns. We are delighted to have research that now clearly confirms the significant impact of our program when it is adopted by hospitals and their staff.”

The evidence shows that the program results in a significant reduction in severe morbidity for newborns, as measured by the rate of serious complications such as respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis and severe intraventricular hemorrhage. With respect to maternal outcomes, there was a significant reduction in third- and fourth-degree tears and length of stay in hospital.

**MORE<sup>OB</sup>** (Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently) is a comprehensive, three-year, patient safety, professional development and performance improvement program for caregivers and administrators in hospital obstetrics units. The program structure is based on the proven principles of High Reliability Organizations (HRO’s), including safety as the priority, effective communication, teamwork, decreased hierarchy in emergencies, practice for emergencies, and reflective learning. The program integrates evidence-based professional practice standards and guidelines with current and evolving patient safety concepts, principles and tools.

“We strongly believe that further post-program research will show equally strong results in the other Canadian provinces where hospitals have embraced the program,” said Dr. Milne. “It is our goal to convince all those responsible for maternal and fetal health outcomes to integrate the **MORE<sup>OB</sup>** program into their hospital environments.”

By learning and working together in their own practice environment, the health-care team is able to use the shared knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors that contribute to safe, effective, patient-centered care in an efficient, collaborative, healthy practice environment.

This study proves that when a patient safety program is introduced as an intensive, long-term continuing education and quality improvement initiative, health outcomes can be significantly impacted.

“**MORE<sup>OB</sup>** is an innovative program that seeks to ensure that every pregnant woman receives optimal care. With the results of this new study, it is hoped that many other North American hospitals will emulate Alberta, and make **MORE<sup>OB</sup>** a key component of their hospitals’ training, standards and approach to obstetrical patient care,” added Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).