

# Couplet Care

St. Luke's Hospital  
Duluth, MN

Average 1000 births/year  
Department: Maternal Child Health  
(L&D, PP, Level 1 & 2 Nsy, and Pediatrics)



# Transition to Couplet Care

- ❖ Asked for a voluntary workgroup of nurses interested in developing a couplet care staffing model
- ❖ Allowed adequate meeting time over several months for meetings
- ❖ Purchased resources along the way to prepare for couplet care:
  - ❖ Infant Stethoscopes and Thermometers for pt. rooms
  - ❖ AWHONN Neonatal Skin care Guidelines
  - ❖ Put lock on nightstands in rooms for equipment storage

## Next Steps:

1. Update neonatal skin care policy
2. Develop a policy for guidelines around doing couplet care
3. Report plans to MCH Unit Council for feedback
4. Couplet care workgroup had final meeting to review feedback
5. Share plans for roll out at staff mtg in July 2014.
6. Update daily assignment sheets and staffing calculator for couplet care.
7. Update orientation to couplet care model
8. Inform the admin supervisors and staffing office of the change.

# Transition to Couplet Care

Just pick the date-starting Couplet Care on 8/11/14, Monday.

- ✓ Anticipate challenges
- ✓ Be Challenged-change is not always popular 😊
- ✓ Ask for suggestions to improve (not stop couplet care)
- ✓ Make opportunities for Feedback
- ✓ Be resolved that this is what we are sticking with and we will continue to modify as needed

## Things to Note:

- Certain points in the staffing grid could call for more staff according to AWHONN guidelines
- Float staff training and working can create some challenges
- The success of the staffing change will rely on the determination and support of leadership

Patience and  
perseverance have a  
magical effect before  
which difficulties  
disappear and obstacles  
vanish.

*John Quincy Adams*