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There's an App for That

AN IPHONE APP REPLACES THE FLAWED DESCRIBE-OVER-THE-PHONE SYSTEM TO GIVE DOCTORS REAL-TIME INFORMATION AT THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN A WOMAN'S LIFE.

by Chelsy Woods Klein

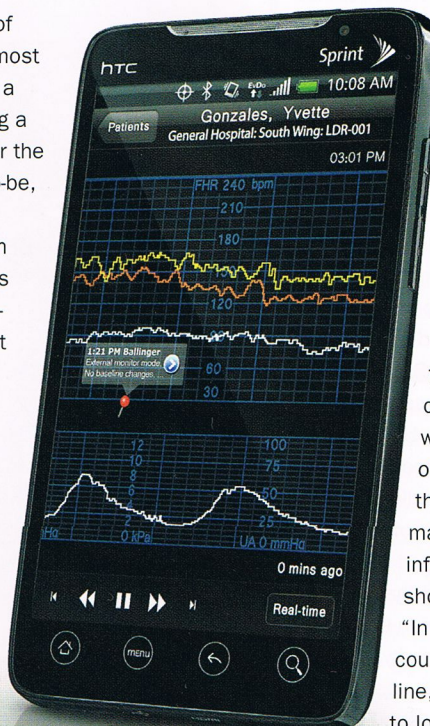
On the list of the 10 most stressful events in a person's life, having a baby is way up near the top. For mothers-to-be, just the thought of going into labor can evoke panic attacks — “What if my doctor isn't on call that night?” or “What if something goes wrong?”

Now, moms can rest easier knowing hospitals such as Rose Medical Center and Presbyterian/St. Luke's are striving to provide world-class care by using the latest mobile technology.

For decades, Rose has built a reputation as a leader in patient care. In October 2009, Rose proved once again, that it was a step ahead when it implemented a new mobile patient-monitoring system called Airstrip OB, which allows obstetricians to monitor patients remotely from their iPhones — in real time. Doctors can see the mother's and baby's vital signs on their screen, as though they were looking directly at the room's monitors because, in essence, they are.

Although Rose was first to utilize Airstrip OB, Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree hopped on the mobile-monitoring technology bandwagon in July 2010, and several others soon followed.

“This technology is amazing,” says labor and delivery nurse Alexis Blank. “It allows us, as a support staff, to communicate with the doctors in a much more precise way.” Before



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technology such as this, which Rose uses in conjunction with GE's Centricity Perinatal Clinical Information System, doctors who were away from the hospital would have patient information relayed to them via phone.

The describe-over-the-phone system was riddled with flaws. The nurses called the doctor and attempted to convey what was happening with the patient and what was on the monitors. It was up to the doctor to interpret the information and attempt to make an informed decision about what should or shouldn't be done. “In our business, every minute counts. People's lives are on the line,” says Blank. “We can't afford to lose precious time trying to

describe critical information and just hope we get it right and everything we say is complete and accurate.”

Dr. Reid Goodman with Mile High Ob/Gyn Associates has seen a lot of changes in obstetrics over the past 31 years. He agrees that technology such as Airstrip OB is revolutionizing the healthcare industry. “I am able to see, at any time, no matter where I am, what's happening with my patients. I log onto our secure website from my iPhone, and I can watch my patients' monitors myself. There is no more guessing, and that improves the quality of care I can give.”

Chelsy Woods Klein is a freelance journalist and Colorado native who lives in Centennial with her husband, two kids, and one naughty dog.