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### **You said, I heard...**

During the period of time that I worked in Labor and Delivery, there were a number of stressful deliveries that occurred. One that stands out in my mind is a lady who arrived to L & D after her water broke while she was at a local bar. It was determined that she was pregnant with twins and Twin A was presenting as a footling breech. The staff prepared for a vaginal delivery and possibly a C-section; quickly notified the physician and the NICU staff.

In the surgical suite, the doctor began the delivery of the babies. The room was full of noise and activity of the nurses, surgical technicians, respiratory therapists, and NICU staff prepared to provide care for the babies. The two fetal heart monitors sounded in a regular cadence of heart beats. As the staff hustled in anticipation of the newborns, the first baby arrived and was quickly evaluated by the experts.

A few minutes lapsed as the physician requested a number of instruments. The noise in the room continued with the focus on the fetal monitor of Twin B, the baby's heart rate was indicating a decreased heart rate. I heard the soft-spoken physician who was masked and positioned with his back to me, request a scalpel and I repeated back to him, "A scalpel". The doctor quickly said, "No, a scalp lead". A scalp lead is an electronic fetal monitor placed in the head of the baby which provides accurate fetal heart tones.

I chuckle to myself each time I reflect back on this situation with the noise and the activity in the room, this story demonstrates that when there is an increase in noise level, it is important to speak clearly. In addition, simple communication techniques are important to make sure the message sent is received accurately.