

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## DD-12 TRAUMA IN PREGNANCY

ALS/ILS/BLS

Management:

- Initial trauma care
- Check externally for:
  - Uterine contraction
  - Vaginal bleeding
  - Leaking amniotic fluid
  - Assess for fetal movements
- Place patient on left side if not immobilized:
  - If on backboard, raise right side of backboard to minimize compression of inferior vena cava by the uterus.

Note:

- Most common cause of fetal death is maternal death
- Fetus maybe in jeopardy while mother's vital signs remain stable
- The pregnant patient has a resting:
  - Pulse that is 10-15 beats faster than usual
  - Blood pressure 10-15 mmHg lower than usual
  - Therefore a blood loss of 30-35% can occur before there is significant change in blood pressure
- Trauma to the abdominal compartment can cause occult bleeding in the intrauterine or retroperitoneal area with or without signs of rebound, guarding and/or rigidity.