

Table 1 Details of substandard care and delays for maternal deaths in Jordan, 2007-2008

Variable	No. of deaths	% (<i>n</i> = 76)	Reported aspects
Substandard care			
Total	40	52.6	
Case management	16	21.1	Misdiagnosis; mishandling of postpartum haemorrhage; mismanagement of other obstetric complications
Hospital preparedness	11	14.5	Lack of beds or intensive care unit; lack of experience; lack of specialists
Delay in hospital care	13	17.1	After reporting to hospital, women were reassured, sent home and came back dead; delayed initiation of care
Delay in seeking care	42	55.3	Symptoms started 2 hours to 5 days before arrival to hospital; bleeding; headache; severe lower abdominal pain; shortness of breath; cyanosis; hyperemesis; semi-consciousness; dizziness; intrauterine fetal death or postmaturity; refused to go to hospital until collapsed; unsure about the need for hospital care; refused medical procedures and discharged against medical advice; rejected medical pregnancy termination
Delay in transport	12	15.8	Unable to afford transport (6 women); dwelling in remote area and far away from regular transport (4 women); symptoms worsened after midnight and transport found after 30 minutes (2 women)