Examples of Maternal Deaths

1. A woman with twin gestation, whose delivery is complicated by uterine atony and postpartum bleeding, hypovolaemic shock, disseminated intravascular coagulopathy and renal failure.

1. A woman infected with HIV who has a spontaneous abortion that becomes infected, and dies due to septic shock and renal failure.
2. This was the woman’s third pregnancy and she had not had any complications during the first two deliveries. She did not have any tetanus toxoid vaccination or antenatal consultation by a doctor or nurse in any of her pregnancies because of her religious beliefs. She ate normally and her health was good, although she sometimes suffered from headaches at which time she liked to lie down on her bed. After six months of pregnancy she became unable to see at night but no consultation with a doctor was arranged for this problem. She did not develop any bodily swelling. A woman with a baby in breech position who experiences obstructed labour and dies of puerperal sepsis
3. A 36 year old woman is known to be about 6 months pregnant with her 5th pregnancy. She experiences dizziness and night sweats, shortness of breath and has been coughing blood stained sputum. The Doctor diagnosed tuberculosis and found she was HIV positive. She died at 7 months pregnancy of pneumonia.
4. A 31 year old woman is 38 weeks pregnant with her 4th child. She is on her way to the local town walking along the main road with her children when a bus knocks her down. She is unconscious and dies 4 hours after the accident.