

Better Maternal Outcomes: An IHI Rapid Improvement Network



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Enrollment begins
Summer 2019



Each year, at least 700 women in the US die due to complications in childbirth. For each instance of maternal mortality, approximately 100 women experience complication-related harm. US maternal mortality rates have worsened over the last 15 years, at a time when rates in other countries have improved. In the US, the burden of mortality and morbidity falls disproportionately on African-American women with maternal mortality rates three to four times higher than that of white women.^[i] Many of these deaths are avoidable if hospitals and health systems reliably implement care bundles and promising practices at the time of birth. These bundles are designed to quickly address the unwanted complications of hemorrhage, hypertension, C-section, and VTE during pregnancy and around the time of birth. There are also emerging ideas on prevention of deaths in African American mothers that could contribute to further improvement of US maternal mortality.^[ii]

Better Maternal Outcomes: An IHI Rapid Improvement Network is designed for hospitals and health care systems that are committed to improving maternal mortality and morbidity by adopting care bundles and improving efforts to deliver reliable, safe, equitable, and respectful care in their maternity services. Participating organizations will learn how to spread best practices, and protocols through a variety of shared learning formats and practical, how-to guidance. The goal of the network is to equip

participants with the knowledge and skills to needed to reliably implement promising practices and improve care delivery for all women and newborns.

What participants can expect

- Education and programming focused on critical safety issues including severe hypertension and preeclampsia, venous thromboembolism, obstetric hemorrhage, safe reduction of C-sections, and a host of emerging topics
- Real-world examples and learning from a wide array of hospitals and health care delivery organizations
- Quality improvement tools to help participants reach their goals and bridge the gap between “what we know” and “what we do”, including a learning system platform to connect providers, organizations, and communities doing similar work
- Support for hospital teams on rapid testing to identify what works in different contexts and conditions at scale
- Access to results and learning from other related initiatives, including partnerships with communities focused on reducing disparities and improving equity in maternal outcomes
- An action-orientation: IHI will use existing assets, projects, and relationships to move participants into actions that will improve birth equity, dignity, and maternal outcomes

Details about the network

Participants will enroll in 6-month waves based on their organization type and/or topical interests (for example: High-volume delivery hospitals, safety-net providers, etc.) All waves will include:

- Over 10 live webinars, and virtual office hours with experts from many facets of the system (research, clinical leadership, quality and safety leaders, mothers and front-line clinicians), providing practical, how-to advice for implementing national safety bundles and other promising practices
- Virtual peer-to-peer networking opportunities around a variety of topics and interests
- How-to-guides and quality improvement tools customized to support bundle implementation and build local improvement skills

Learn More

To learn more and enroll in the Fall 2019 wave, visit ihi.org/maternalhealth

[i] Louis JM, Menard MK, & Gee RE. (2015). Racial and ethnic disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 125(3):690-4.

[ii] Main, E. et al. (2015). Pregnancy-Related Mortality in California: Causes, Characteristics, and Improvement Opportunities. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 125(4):938-947.