Safety Program for Perinatal Care

What Is AHRQ’s Safety Program for Perinatal Care?
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Safety Program for Perinatal Care is designed to facilitate coordination and teamwork in the labor and delivery unit to improve patient safety and quality of care and decrease maternal and neonatal adverse events. Similar programs have resulted in improved perinatal outcomes and lower medical malpractice costs. The program builds on the knowledge gained from AHRQ’s work on the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP), TeamSTEPPS® teamwork system, and findings from AHRQ’s patient safety and medical liability initiative demonstration grants.

Expert faculty will provide Webinars, with continuing medical education/continuing education unit (CME/CEU) credits available. Each Webinar, which lasts approximately 2 hours, reviews core principles, discusses practical approaches, and provides an overview of available tools and resources to support local implementation of the three program pillars:

- Unit processes, policies, and training that foster a culture of teamwork and communication
- A program of in situ simulation
- Customizable bundles on focused areas of perinatal safety

The Safety Program for Perinatal Care will begin in October 2014 and last 10 months. It is sponsored by AHRQ and coordinated by RTI International.

What Does the Program Entail?
Participating sites will have access to resources such as implementation tools, training opportunities, and technical assistance to support the three pillars of program implementation. Every effort will be made to coordinate with existing state and local initiatives to reduce duplication of effort.

Site expectations include—

- Assembling an implementation team and other planning activities
- Participating in CME/CEU accredited Webinar training and technical assistance
- Implementing the three program pillars
- Collecting and sharing data to drive improvement and gauge progress.

Enrolling in the Program
State and regional systems and hospitals can enroll now. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. The program will begin in early 2015 and last 10 months.

Participation
Labor and delivery units must meet the following requirements before joining the program:

- have TeamSTEPPS® training;
- obtain leadership approval;
- attend program training sessions;
- conduct intervention; and
- share data about program effectiveness.

For more information or to enroll, please contact your state network or perinatalsafety@rti.org.
Training Opportunities
Expert faculty will provide educational opportunities with CME/CEU hours to support safety and quality through Webinars. Each Webinar, which lasts approximately 2 hours, reviews core principles, discusses practical approaches, and provides an overview of available tools and resources to support local implementation of the three program pillars.

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TeamSTEPPS® Training
Key Program Activities

This figure illustrates the key activities of the Safety Program for Perinatal Care.

- **Startup**
  - Identify the local implementation team
  - Educate hospital leadership on the program
  - Secure commitment of team members and hospital leadership
  - Complete enrollment package

- **Baseline Data Collection**
  - Perinatal Safety Infrastructure and Processes
  - Hospital Characteristics
  - Claims Data Submission for Clinical Outcome Measurement
  - AHRQ’s Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture

- **Training and Technical Assistance**
  - 5 training sessions via Webinars (every 2 weeks)
  - Technical assistance calls
  - User Support Network

- **Local Implementation**
  - Fostering a culture of teamwork and communication
  - Identifying components for implementation
  - Establishing a program of in situ simulation
  - Selecting and implementing at least two perinatal safety bundles

- **Evaluation**
  - Throughout the period of local implementation
    - Data collection for monitoring perinatal safety infrastructure and processes
    - Monitoring implementation team progress using CUSP Team Check-up Tool
    - Between 10 and 12 months after beginning implementation
      - AHRQ Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture
      - Claims Data Submission for Clinical Outcome Measurement

AHRQ Publication No. 14-M024-ES
September 2014