



Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Hypertension in Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period Initiative

Background:

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy are increasing in incidence and are a leading cause of severe maternal morbidity (SMM). Timely treatment of hypertensive urgency is a well-understood best practice but can be challenging to operationalize consistently.

- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy affect 3-11% of all pregnancies.
- Minnesota and national data demonstrate Black and Native American women are disproportionately impacted.
- Other risk factors include hypertension prior to pregnancy, advanced maternal age, Type 1 or 2 diabetes, obesity, multiple gestations, and prior preeclampsia.
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy are responsible for up to 17% of all maternal mortality in the US
- Neonatal outcomes are impacted.
- The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology endorses treating a hypertensive crisis within 60 minutes to reduce the risk for stroke and other adverse outcomes.

Aim:

A 25% reduction in SMM by February 2023 accomplished through recognition of and optimizing timely treatment of hypertensive urgency in the inpatient setting. This aim will be accomplished through implementation of the MNPQC Hypertension in Pregnancy Care Process Model, case review, and sharing best practices through collaboration.

Objectives for MNPQC Hypertension in Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period Initiative:

1. Assess individual health system barriers and facilitate solutions to implement hypertension treatment strategies.
2. Assess provider knowledge of interventions to reduce hypertension including treatment disparities for Black and Native American women and offer education opportunities to increase provider knowledge.
3. Introduce a standardized process for treatment of hypertension including standardized order set, medication treatment kit and/or discharge planning protocol.
4. Identify methods to incorporate anti-racism into individual practice and organizational guidelines.
5. Identify various methodologies to enhance patient education and engagement to increase early recognition and intervention.

Benefits to participation in the MNPQC Hypertension in Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period Initiative:

- Receive assistance with implementation of guidelines from The Joint Commission into the healthcare system using information gained from prior learning collaboratives and tools created by MNPQC.
- Access to participate in educational activities offering continuing education (CME/CE) credits.
- Access to Project ECHO for quality improvement education.
- Receive quality improvement analysis of data from within your hospital and comparison to regional/state/national reports.

For more information, please contact:

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