

## GaPQC Updates

Maternal data submission for **Severe HTN in Pregnancy** and **Cardiac Conditions in OB Care (CCOC)** is due **January 31st** for **October - December 2024**. Sign in and submit your data into **SimpleQI**.

**Wave III recruitment** for the CCOC is ongoing! Currently, there are **16 actively engaged hospitals** and **7 learning cohort teams**. We welcome **Upson** as the newest learning cohort. If interested, you can download and complete the enrollment [HERE](#) or visit [GaPQC COCC](#) to learn more.

A **HUGE thank you** to the **14 NICU's** across the state that participated in our **skin-to-skin/kangaroo care audit**. This data will be instrumental in shaping our next initiative, and we could not have done it without you!

Interested in hosting an ONN site visit? Contact [Laura Pattillo](#).

## Celebrating the Bright Spots

### Wellstar Doula Program: Supporting Mothers and Families

The Wellstar Doula Program began as a grant funded pilot hospital-based model in February 2023. It is a comprehensive initiative designed to support expectant mothers and their families throughout pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. Recognizing the critical role doulas play in improving health outcomes, Wellstar is the first health system to hire and train doulas to be an integral part of the care team. The program provides both in-person and virtual support tailored to the cultural preferences and individual needs of each family.



Key features of the program include: physical and emotional support, breastfeeding assistance, educational resources, cultural sensitivity, community impact, and screening. Learn more about the Wellstar Doula Program [here](#).

### Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health Appointment

Gov. Kemp recently appointed Padmashree "Champa" Woodham to serve as the chairperson of the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health. Congratulations to Dr. Woodham on this appointment. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving maternal and infant outcomes in Georgia.

**SUBMIT YOUR "BRIGHT SPOT" [HERE!](#)**

## Upcoming Events & Webinars

**GaPQC Maternal Webinar, 2-3 pm**  
February 4th, March 4th, April 8th

**GaPQC Neonatal Webinars, 2-3 pm**  
January 14th, February 11th, March 11th

**January 24th and 25th | Albany, GA**  
Bridging the Gap: Caring for Rural Georgia Moms (Inaugural Conference). Register [here](#).

**January 30th, 1-2 pm**  
Compassion OB Care: Avoiding Retraumatization and Supporting Healing. Register [here](#).

**February 12th, 2-3 pm**  
SHOULD WE DEPART ARRIVE?: What Other Evidence Demonstrates. A part of the NotOnMyWatch Maternal & Infant Health Leadership Series. Register [here](#).

**February 27th, 12:30 pm**  
EPIC Breastfeeding Webinar: The Breastfeeding-Friendly Pediatrician. Register [here](#).

**February 28th - March 1st**  
Northside Hospital Heart of the Matter Conference. Click [here](#) for additional information and registration.

**March 12th, 12 pm**  
AIM Data Lunch and Learn: Uploading Your Data to the AIM Data Center. Register [here](#).

## Patient/Provider Corner

We are happy to welcome **Denielle McCray** as our **newest ILE**. You can read her story [here](#).



"I am eager to join GaPQC because of my deep passion for maternal health and my commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of mothers and babies, particularly those who have experienced NICU trauma. As someone with lived experience, my goal is to provide emotional support, offer valuable resources, and connect families with the necessary services to help them navigate through difficult times."

### PEACH Pregnant and Postpartum Heart Disease Warning Signs

- P**alpitations  
Heart beating too fast or skipping beats
- E**dema  
Swelling in your hands or feet
- A**bnormal Breathing  
Waking up at night coughing or shortness of breath
- C**hest Pains
- H**igh Blood Pressure

Georgia cares about the heart health of pregnant and postpartum people. Look out for the PEACH heart warning signs that something might be seriously wrong.

Pregnancy can impact your heart health for up to a year after the pregnancy ends. Not all doctors will know that you were pregnant. Remember to say "I was pregnant this past year and now I am having..."

Use this QR code to get more information about heart health warning signs.

You are experiencing any of these warning signs.

## Video Contest

GaPQC is hosting a **video contest** to help socialize **cardiovascular disease (CVD) screening in pregnancy and up to one year postpartum!**

- All participants are welcome** (residents, midwives, nurses, doula, etc.)
- Create a **15 second to 1 minute** TikTok/Instagram Reel/story, educating about CVD screening in pregnancy and postpartum.
- Videos should be **directed** to either **patients or physicians**

Find **additional** contest information [HERE](#).

Submission Deadline is **April 18th**.

All entries should be **submitted** to [Dr. Teresa Byrd](#).

**Winners will be notified via email and announced** at the GaPQC annual meeting April 24-25th, 2025.

**Check My Heart Emergency Card**

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women in the U.S. who are pregnant or have been pregnant within the last year.

If you are pregnant or were pregnant in the last year and I am having symptoms possible cardiac emergency.

**JATE ME AND CONSIDER ORDERING:**

ECG Chest X-ray BNP Troponin

Go to the hospital and read the above statement to your doctor or provider.

## (REMINDER) Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement: Birth Equity Modules

If you are registered and utilized 1 of the 100 seats for the IPQI: Birth Equity Modules Course, please make sure you complete all four courses for CNE credit **ASAP**.

## Areas of Opportunities

**2025 Maternal Health Awareness Day:** Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHGA) invites you to join them at the Georgia State Capitol on **January 23rd from 10 am to 3 pm**. This special event will focus on **empowering mothers** and **advocating** for positive change in **maternal health policies** in Georgia.

**Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement's (PQI) 28 Day Anti-Racism Challenge:** Starting **February 1, 2025**, each day during this v3 challenge there is a quote meant for reflection (**Reflect**), a learning activity (**Learn**), and a recommended action (**Act**). It is designed to help us all more effectively **SPEAK UP against Racism**. Register [here](#).

**Maternal & Infant Health Leadership Series:** NotOnMyWatch Consulting Partners has several webinars scheduled this year for a change to earn CNEs/NCPDs. The webinars are scheduled for: **February 13th, April 15th, June 12th, August 12th, October 9th, and December 11th**. Registration information will be under our upcoming events and webinars section.

**Million Hearts Hypertension in Pregnancy Action Forum:** A **national collaborative** for clinical, public health, and community-based partners to exchange best and promising practices, identify solutions to common obstacles, and share resources related to improving hypertension management for women during and after pregnancy. The forums will be held: **February 11th, May 13th, April 14th, and November 12th from 2-3 pm**. Visit their website for additional information and registration.

**Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS):** Obstetric Emergencies Workshop 3rd Edition: HOPE for GA Moms and the NGHS Center for Simulation and Innovation will be hosting OPS Training **starting in February 2025**. This year's workshop dates are: **February 18th, March 18th, April 14th, May 13th, June 10th, July 24th, August 12th, September 16th, October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th**. For registration and inquiries, contact [Tasha Murchison](#).



### Jessi Barnes Joins the Neonatal Outreach Team

Jessi Barnes, MSN, RN, RNC-NIC, NPD-BC, C-ELBW stepped into the role of Neonatal Outreach Coordinator, Atlanta RPC region, in November 2024. Jessi is an Atlanta area native with experience in high risk perinatal nursing, level III NICU nursing, nursing informatics, and nursing professional development. She was most recently the Clinical Nurse Educator for Grady's NICU. Her professional interests include trauma-informed, respectful, family integrated care followed closely by resuscitation. She hopes to share her passion for high quality, evidenced based professional development with the region's teams.

## Resources

**ACOG's Maternal Health Awareness Day (January 23, 2025) Campaign:** Ready-to-share social media graphics and resources to improve maternal health

### AIM Resources

- [Community Birth Transfer Resource Kit:](#) Best practices for safe and timely transfers, including examples and resources to support collaborative teams
- [Obstetric Emergency Readiness Resource Kit:](#) Help recognize and respond for pregnant and postpartum people presenting for care in non-OB or resource-limited settings
- [Severe Maternal Mortality \(SMM\):](#) A new webpage dedicated to SMM resources
- [Urgent Maternal Warnings Signs Expanded Version](#)

**Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in Pregnancy & Postpartum Algorithm**

**Empower Health Center Staff to Raise Awareness about Urgent Maternal Warning Signs:** Tap Into the CDC Hear Her Campaign

**Georgia Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce Resource Guide.** Created by HMHGA and Postpartum Support International Georgia Chapter to help families and providers access the resources they need.

**Sources of Support: Exploring Resources for Postpartum Depression.** A 4-part video series that highlights the importance of various mental health providers during pregnancy and postpartum.

### RSV Resources

- [A United Front: Helping Protect Infants From RSV Lower Respiratory Tract Disease](#)
- [AAP's Algorithm for RSV for Infants](#)
- [Maternal Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccination](#)
- [Nirsevimab Protected Infants, Children From Severe RSV in 2023-2024 Season](#)
- [Prepare Your Clinics and Pregnant Patients for Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season](#)
- [Vaccination During Pregnancy for Prevention of Severe RSV Disease in Newborns](#)

### Maternal and Neonatal Levels of Care Verification

Levels of maternal and neonatal care provides guidelines that help ensure mothers and infants receive care in a facility that has the personnel and resources appropriate for their level of risk.

Click [here](#) for more information about the program and a list of the hospitals that have completed the designation process.



## Publications

[American Medical Association Advocacy to Improve Maternal Health](#)

[Bring Postpartum Care to the NICU- An Opportunity to Improve Health in a High-Risk Obstetric Population](#)

[Nowhere to Go: Maternity Care Deserts Across the US | March of Dimes 2024 Report](#)

[Role of Doula in Improving Maternal Health and Health Equity Among Medicaid Enrollees, 2014-2023](#)

[Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy: Progress Made and Future Directions for Patient Safety, Quality Improvement, and Implementation of a Patient Safety Bundle](#)

[U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 2024 | MMRC](#)

[U.S. Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use, 2024 | MMRC](#)