

GaPQC Annual Conference

On April 25-26, 2024, GaPQC held its 5th Annual Conference at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta with approximately 120 attendees from more than 15 health systems across Georgia. It was an incredible event filled with insightful sessions, engaging speakers, and valuable networking opportunities.

This year's theme, "The Next Generation" was hosted by our amazing GaPQC Maternal and Neonatal Chairs, Dr. Ravi Patel, Dr. Teresa Byrd, and Dr. Melissa Kottke. Dr. Michael Warren, Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau with HRSA, served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Warren spoke to the audience on "Accelerating Upstream Together to Improve Maternal and Infant Health".

There was also a closing message from Kelly McCutcheon Adams from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Attendees had the chance to participate in a variety of lectures as well as breakout sessions covering topics such as social determinants of health, patients with lived experiences, support for breastfeeding, health equity, cardiac conditions and screening, and many more. The conference provided time for attendees to connect, exchange ideas, and build relationships with other facilities conducting similar quality improvement work. Hospitals were recognized and presented awards for their ongoing work to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes in Georgia.

A big thank you to GOGS for organizing the event, to the facilities who shared their ongoing quality improvement efforts, to our many speakers, patients, and families who passionately give of themselves to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes all across Georgia. One attendee summarized the day by saying, "I came home really energized to keep on, to do better, and to not let the challenges dent my resolve in helping make all the difference in the world."

We are currently working to secure next years date and will share that once it is confirmed. Please make plans to attend! A heartfelt thank you from GaPQC staff to everyone who attended and made this year's Annual Conference a memorable experience and to all the GaPQC awardees!



American Heart Association - Georgia

Celebrating the Bright Spots



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

In May, the American Heart Association hosted a Maternal Health Community Conversation to discuss a range of topics related to maternal health, including prenatal care, postpartum well-being, and strategies for supporting mothers and families. Panelists for the event included: Lee Padove, MD and Michele Voeltz, MD of Northside Hospital Healthcare System, Dr. Natalie Hernandez-Green of Morehouse School of Medicine, and Dr. Quantrilla Ard of March of Dimes. The event was supported by Northside Hospital and the American Heart Association

GaPQC Updates

Jennifer Boland, Women's Health Liaison, joined DPH in April. She is working with the Regional Perinatal Centers and serving as the GaPQC Improvement Advisor. If you have not already talked with Jennifer, she will be reaching out to your facility in the near future.

Interested in joining the **ONN Initiative**? It is not too late, just complete the enrollment form [here](#).

There are currently 16 hospitals across five of the six perinatal regions actively engaged in the **CCOC Initiative**. If your team is interested in enrolling, download & complete the enrollment form [here](#) or visit: www.georgiapqc.org/cardiac-conditions.

CCOC "Office Hours" are held on the last Tuesday of every other month from 1-2 PM EST. To be placed on the list serve, please contact [Amy Mock](#).

Patient/Provider Corner

Liberty Regional Medical Center located in rural Hinesville, GA has created a maternal-child health podcast. The podcast delves into the critical challenges of maternal health, specifically highlighting the disparities for black women. It explores the innovative approaches a local community hospital is taking to revolutionize maternal health care by shifting from transactional to relationship-based care delivery, while leveraging limited resources in a rural area.

Click the link [HERE](#) to listen to the powerful story of Toni Smith, a new mother who experienced congestive heart failure shortly after childbirth. She shares her journey and the impact Liberty's program played in saving her life.

The podcast spotlights the critical impact of supportive, integrated care in black maternal health and features Dr. Keisha Callins with Community Health Care Systems in GA and Heather Daniels, Perinatal Services Director with Liberty Regional Medical Center. A special thanks to Toni Smith for sharing her lived experience for the podcast.



SimpleQI is a secure, cloud-based QI constructed platform built to accelerate improvement work through collaboration and shared learning. Features include:

- Ability to test changes and track PDSA cycles
- Link drivers and changes to measures
- Import baseline, capture, & visualize data in run charts
 - Ease of use to make quality improvement efforts more efficient

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A TRAINING WEBINAR COMING VERY SOON!



GaPQC Maternal Hypertension and Cardiac Conditions in Obstetric Care Data Reporting Timeline

Q1 Jan - March: submit by April 30th
Q2 April - June: submit by July 31st
Q3 July - Sept: submit by Oct 31st
Q4 Oct - Dec: submit by Jan 31st

GaPQC Maternal Biannual Survey

GaPQC needs your help by completing the Biannual Survey for your hospital. Click on the Survey Monkey link and complete the survey by the deadline of Monday, July 15th. We want to hear your feedback to help move initiatives forward. Survey Monkey link [HERE](#).

ONN Survey

If you have not already, please complete the ONN survey [here](#). This will help us in future planning.

Areas of Opportunities

AIM E-Learning Modules: Each course features a comprehensive overview of a AIM Patient Safety Bundle and its key elements. You can find all modules [here](#).

American Heart Association has created free learning modules titled, "[The Role of Maternal Health in Cardiovascular Health](#)" and "[Addressing Health Disparities](#)". The learning modules are **free** through July 16, 2026 and come with **CME/CE credits**.

Georgia Maternal Health ECHO: Provides a virtual community learning platform for clinicians and community advocates to collaborate on the implementation of solutions to address maternal mortality and severe morbidity in our state. ECHO sessions are monthly, and typically, on the third Wednesday from 12-1 pm. Register [here](#).

Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS): OB Emergencies Workshop 3rd Edition: This OPS Workshop is designed to help clinicians identify, assess, and manage the patients with an Obstetric emergency through simulation and debriefing. Material and registration paid in part by HOPE for Georgia Moms and NGHS Center for Simulation and Innovation. Workshop dates (8 am - 4:30 pm): June 5th, July 25th, August 19th, September 18th & 19th, October 24th, and December 4th & 5th. Successful completion of the prerequisite course is required prior to attending the live portion. Submit request to attend to [Tasha Murchison](#). Click [here](#) for more information.

DPH Recognizes Hospitals For Completing Maternal And Neonatal Levels of Care Verification

"The Georgia Department of Public Health congratulates Wellstar Cobb, Northside Hospital Forsyth, Tanner Villa Rica, and Grady Memorial Hospital for successfully completing the Maternal Levels of Care designation process. It is DPH's hope that other birthing hospitals will also consider the designation process. Working together we can have a positive impact on the health and well-being of Georgia mothers and babies," said Erin Smith, RN, BSN, Program Manager, Maternal and Neonatal Designation Center at DPH.

For more information about the program and a list of hospitals that have completed the designation process, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars

July 9th at 2-3 pm EST: Optimizing Newborn Nutrition (ONN) Monthly Webinar

July 16th at 2-3 pm EST: Maternal and Infant Health Initiative (MIHI): QI Webinar from [Medicaid - Addressing Hypertension Before, During, and After Pregnancy](#)

July 17th at 12-1 pm EST: "CARES-NICU: Creating Care for Recovery at NGHS"

August 6th at 2-3 pm EST: GaPQC Maternal Webinar - Dr. Kathryn Lindley Pregnancy, Cardiac Conditions, and Bedside Care-Oh My!

August 20th at 2-3 pm EST: Medicaid and CHIP Program Collaboration with Hospitals on AIM Bundles [webinar](#)

August 21st at pm EST: Maternal Health ECHO. "Cardio-OB: Addressing Cardiac Health for Women in the CSRA"

Upcoming Events

Georgia OB/Gyn 73rd Annual Educational Meeting - Aug 22-25th More info [here](#).

Georgia Perinatal Association Conference - Sept 18-20th More info [here](#).

NGHS Grand Rounds - Oct 2nd - Guest Speaker Dr. Afshan Hameed from California

Resources

- National Center for Health Statistics: Health E-Stats May 2024-"[Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2022](#)"
- ACOG and partners released the following **emergency department materials**:
 - Identification and management of Obstetric Emergencies in Non-obstetric [Settings](#)
 - Cardiovascular Disease in Pregnancy & Postpartum [Algorithm](#)
 - Acute Hypertension in Pregnancy & Postpartum [Algorithm](#)
 - Eclampsia [Algorithm](#)
- Atlanta Medicine: Journal of the Medical Association of Atlanta "[Maternal Mortality](#)."
- AIM Revised SMM Review Form and Resources [here](#)
- AIM [OB Emergency Readiness Resource Kit](#)
- [Hypertension in Pregnancy Change Packet](#)
- AIM shared the Seminars in Perinatology Article: Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health: Evolution of a program to address maternal morbidity and mortality. Find it [here](#).
- AIM [SMM Codes List](#)
 - AIM SMM Codes List has been updated to align with the April 1, 2024 release of the Federally Available Data Resource Document
 - ICD-10 and ICD-9 codes have been reviewed
- "[The Practical Playbook III: Working Together to Improve Maternal Health](#)": A first-of-its kind guide for practitioners, researchers, community activists, and advocates of maternal health, offering a collection of practical tools and strategies from across the country to improve inequities in maternal health. A key focus of the book is to encourage collaboration across sectors to address the multifaceted challenges in maternal health.

Maternal Mental Health Hotline Marks Second Anniversary

It has been two years since the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline launched. Counselors have helped more than 33,000 patients & their families before, during, and after pregnancy by providing emotional support, encouragement, and resources. The line is free, confidential, and available 24/7 via phone (60+ languages) or text (English or Spanish). It is a great resource to make available to patients and families - the website has a toolkit, including printable wallet cards, posters, and flyers. Call or text 1-833-TLC-MAMA. You can find more information [here](#).