

Improving Obstetrics Care, Together

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Our Obstetrical Care Outcomes Assessment Program (OB COAP) members vary from large urban regional referral centers, to small, rural hospitals, to providers attending births in homes and birth centers. While settings differ widely, one thing they all have in common is an extraordinary commitment to ensuring that the care provided to the childbearing people and newborns entrusted to them is monitored, benchmarked, and examined on a continual basis - using high-quality, clinical information from the medical record.

Why? The return on investment is more than worth the effort – saving lives, improving outcomes, reducing costs, increasing reimbursement, and improving efficiencies.

Why? Progress within the OB COAP collaborative is significant and ongoing. Some of our recent quality improvement successes include:

- Almost doubling the rate of cord gas collection in indicated cases following the recognition that all sites needed to improve. The three-year trend in this metric shows a rise from ~33% to over 60% across our collaborative following a targeted educational effort to increase awareness of why, when, and how to collect cord gases.
- A three-fold increase in the rate of timely treatment of acute severe hypertension intrapartum or postpartum at one of OB COAP's largest participating sites. Using their OB COAP data, this site identified that they were an outlier and so implemented a quality improvement effort. The site has been monitoring progress over the past several quarters and recent benchmarking with other OB COAP sites shows they are now one of the top performers.
- By examining the rate of 3rd/4th degree lacerations following vaginal birth by race and ethnicity, one of our participants was able to discern that the rate of occurrence in the Asian population at their site was three to four times that of other racial and ethnic groups. Understanding the populations most at risk has allowed them to target their efforts to make changes where they are most needed.

Why? OB COAP's clinical data registry also has financial and provider satisfaction rewards. Testimonials from OB COAP participants identify benefits such as:

- Significant improvements in clinical charting and documentation by providers
- Increased reimbursement by comparing clinical documentation to coding, resulting in -
 - Justification for adding both an obstetrical and newborn clinical documentation improvement specialist
 - Ensuring that high-risk cases are accurately identified by picking up all hemorrhages
 - Capturing all procedures (including cesarean birth) that were done
- Examination of metrics by provider, provider type, provider role – allowing for proper attribution of outcomes and significant improvement in provider confidence in the reports.

Why? There are many reasons, but perhaps most importantly, choosing to be a part of this collaborative quality improvement program demonstrates an ongoing commitment to be **leaders** in the effort to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our childbearing population and their offspring – and for this, we applaud **ALL** of OB COAPs participants.