Welcome to The AIM Bulletin! The monthly update on all things AIM.

AIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

The AIM Team would like to welcome Natanya Alon, MPH. Natanya is joining the AIM team as the Program Manager for the Safety Program in Perinatal Care-II Project. She will be working alongside JHU and AHRQ on this project.

UPDATE ON AIM STATES AND SYSTEMS

Michigan

- Michigan’s 2nd Annual Maternal Infant Health Summit was a success! Over 500 public health professionals, health care practitioners, non-profit organization representatives, and community members came together at the Summit, which took place on March 12th and 13th at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan.

- During the Summit, the Mother Infant Health and Equity Improvement Plan was unveiled by Governor Whitmer; the two main focus areas of the Improvement Plan are zero preventable deaths and zero disparities. On Tuesday afternoon, there was an awards ceremony for the hospitals that received Bronze, Silver, and Gold MI AIM Designations. Each hospital received a large colorful banner with the hospital designation to display in the hospital.
The California AIM Team would like to report this month on Trends for NTSV Cesarean and Safety Measures Rates. The CA AIM research team conducted an analysis to evaluate if NTSV Cesarean rates can be significantly reduced without impacting maternal and neonatal outcomes. The findings (Obstetrics and Gynecology) indicate that mothers and infants participating in a large-scale Supporting Vaginal Birth Collaborative had no evidence of worsening birth outcomes, even in hospitals with very large NTSV cesarean reductions (>10% points) or very low ending rates (less than 20%). These findings support the safety of efforts to reduce primary cesarean utilizing ACOG/SMFM guidelines and enhanced labor support.

**MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE NEWS**

- *The Harvard Gazette, March 5, 2019*: Dying in Childbirth Still on Rise in US
- *USA Today, March 9, 2019*: Hospitals Blame Moms when Childbirth Goes Wrong. Secret Data Suggest its not that Simple.
- *AAMCNews, March 19, 2019*: The Painful Truth about Maternal Deaths
- *Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care*: Voices of Impact Series
UPCOMING EVENTS

Nebraska Kick-Off
Friday, April 5, 2019
Grand Island, NE

Indiana Kick-Off
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Indianapolis, IN

15th Annual Maryland Patient Safety Conference
Friday, April 5, 2019
Baltimore, MD

Black Maternal Health Week
April 11-17, 2019
Click HERE for a list of nationwide events!

CDC/ACOG Meeting at the ACM
Sunday, May 5, 2019
Nashville, TN
More information to come

AIM Annual National Meeting
Wednesday, July 31, 2019
Washington Metropolitan Area
More information to come

MATERNAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

March 2019

End Preventable Maternal Deaths – Pass a MOMNIBUS!

The Problem: Our Nation’s Rising Maternal Mortality Rate:
- The U.S. is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal mortality rate.1
- It is estimated that over 60% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.3
- African-American women are 3-4 times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications.
- Mental health conditions, including suicide and overdose, are the leading cause of maternal mortality in a growing number of states.4 Other causes include pre eclampsia, obstetric hemorrhage, cardiovascular disease, and cardiomyopathy.

Critical First Steps:
The 115th Congress passed H.R. 1318, P.L. 114-344, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, to support state maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs). MMRCs bring together local experts – ob/gyns, nurses, social workers, patient advocates, and other health care professionals – to review individual maternal deaths and recommend specific ways to prevent them in the future. Congress appropriated $20 million in FY 2019 to support prevention efforts. MMRCs are a critical first step in our efforts to make pregnancy safer for women.

Important Next Steps – Accelerate Evidence-Based Patient Safety Changes:
- Support and expand the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) program.
  - AIM is a national data-driven maternal and newborn quality improvement initiative, implementing safety protocols reflecting MMRC recommendations in hospitals across the Nation.
  - Initial AIM states (IL, OK, MI) observed a severe mortality reduction of 7% between 2015-2018.
- Support state-based perinatal quality collaboratives.
- Quality collaboratives bring together local experts to accelerate adoption of best practices, including recommendations of MMRCs and AIM safety protocols.
- Support efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in maternal outcomes.
- Implement implicit bias and improve provision of culturally competent care.
- Extend Medicaid coverage to 12-months postpartum.
  - Medicaid is the largest single payer of maternity care in U.S., covering 42% of births.
  - Our nation’s rate of maternal mortality is rising, particularly preventable causes such as overdose and suicide, after Medicaid pregnancy coverage ends 42-46 days postpartum.
  - As recommended by the Texas and Illinois MMRCs, extending coverage would ensure that “medical and behavioral health conditions can be managed and treated before becoming progressively worse.”

The Solution: A MOMNIBUS!

We urge Congress to build on its commitment to healthy moms and babies and pass:

1. H.R. 351/S. 1000 – Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act
   - Introduced by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
   - To support state-based perinatal quality collaboratives

2. S. 56 – MOMM’s Act
   - Introduced by Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)
   - To authorize the AIM program, extend Medicaid to 12-months postpartum, and address implicit bias and cultural competency

3. S. 116 – MOMS Act
   - Introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
   - To authorize the AIM program and support hospital implementation of best practices

If you would like to have something featured, please email AIM Program Assistant, Karmah McIlvain, kmcilvain@acog.org at least 1 week prior to the newsletter release. The newsletter will be released at the end of every month.

WWW.SAFEHEALTHCAREFOREVERYWOMAN.ORG/AIM-PROGRAM/