

Improving maternal safety and outcomes in the U.S. is a top priority. Clinicians and hospitals have worked hard to improve outcomes, but it is important to continue to pursue advancements in maternal care.

Use this checklist to support your efforts to optimize maternal safety and outcomes. This tool can be adapted to birth volume and the population you serve and is applicable to hospitals of all sizes. The actions outlined below are based on evidence from the literature and on the expertise of professional groups including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC).

- AIM checklist* implementation and data reporting should be implemented by all hospitals with maternity services with a focus on checklists for hypertension, hemorrhage, primary C-section, opioid use and disparity (ACOG).
- Hypertension toolkit* provides actions your hospital can take for effective treatment and prevention (CMQCC).
- Hemorrhage toolkit* helps your hospital with early identification of this complication, conducting drills and actions to take (CMQCC).
- C-section toolkit* implementation helps your hospital partner with patients to deliver using surgery only when truly needed (CMQCC).
- Infection prevention guidelines* for four key perinatal infections (ACOG).
- Opioid strategies* implementation guide can be utilized to create a multidisciplinary plan for how your organization can partner with patients to address opioid use disorder in pregnancy and neonatal abstinence syndrome (ACOG).
- Postpartum strategies toolkit* has resources on the key components of postpartum care (ACOG).
- Stratify data beyond one year by place, race, ethnicity and other variables appropriate to your community and identify opportunities to address disparities.
- Use the Implicit Association Test* with your maternal health teams to assess possible unconscious and implicit bias. This can provide awareness for discussion and subsequent improvement.
- Engage in *maternal morbidity and mortality review* at state and hospital levels. Include review of any readmission or visit to the emergency department by a postpartum mother.
- Engage mothers and families in daily care, including through daily rounds questions for patient concerns that are not being addressed.
- Educate patients utilizing a *discharge checklist* on early identification of hypertension or other complications – ensure they have resources for continued postpartum care.
- Partner with your state hospital association, department of health, perinatal quality collaborative to review data, identify high-risk populations and implement proven practices.
- Ensure strong teamwork and collaboration between nursing, physicians, midwives and other providers; resources available include AHA Team Training resources, among others.

The American Hospital Association is here to support you. Additional information can be found on our website at www.aha.org/better-health-for-mothers-and-babies. If you need assistance, please contact BHMB@aha.org.