

Hospitals Are Prioritizing Maternal Health to Improve Patient Safety

Healthy pregnancies and ensuring a strong start for all children are a cornerstone to advancing the nation's health. Hospitals and health systems nationwide are improving patient safety through practices that prioritize the physical, mental and social health of patients throughout pregnancy, infancy and beyond.

FHN Memorial Hospital | ILLINOIS

Research shows that women in the first six to twelve weeks after delivering a baby are at higher risk of dying from pregnancy and birth-related complications such as blood clots or sepsis. To address this, FHN Memorial Hospital gives each of its postpartum patients an orange wristband that serves as a safety alert, as they are asked to wear it from the time of discharge until their postpartum appointment with their provider. If a new mother experiences a medical emergency and is not able to communicate, the bracelet informs providers and emergency personnel of her postpartum status. Thanks to these alerts, FHN has increased the percentage of time when patients are triaged by a nurse within 10 minutes from 39% to 58%.

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Nebraska Methodist Women's Hospital | NEBRASKA

Nebraska Methodist Women's Hospital is the only hospital entirely dedicated to women's health in the state of Nebraska. The hospital began its 'For All Women Campaign' to care for the growing number of women who depend on the hospital for their health care needs. The campaign aims to address the growing gap in specialized medical care in smaller communities and supports individualized, compassionate health care for all women. This includes expanding new technologies and enhanced medical education and training, adding 10-14 NICU rooms to better address high-risk pregnancy and labor and delivery complications, and incorporating innovative surgery and breast cancer care methods.

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Tennova Healthcare – Clarksville | TENNESSEE

Recognizing the inherent risks associated with childbirth, Tennova Healthcare – Clarksville implemented new technology to make the delivery process safer for mothers and babies. Its artificial intelligence-based maternal-fetal early warning system monitors vital signs, contraction, and other biomedical markers in real-time. This helps clinicians quickly understand if the baby or mother are beginning to experience complications, providing critical time for early intervention to help ensure a safe delivery. To further amplify the impact of this AI-powered technology, the maternity team reviews aggregate childbirth data collected by the system to identify trends and opportunities for the hospital to further improve its safety protocols.

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