



The Maryland Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Collaborative

Collaborative Activities

- Quarterly data submission
- Data benchmarking feedback reports
- Tools, resources and interventions tailored based on hospital baseline assessment results
- Monthly learning events with subject matter experts
- 1:1 Coaching calls with MDPQC team members

Contact

Katie Richards, MPH, CPHQ
MDPQC Collaborative Manager

Email: krichards@hqi.solutions

Phone: 804.289.5355

Website: www.mdpqc.org

2026-2028 Focus Area

Neonatal Health:

Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN)

Commitment

- ✓ Implement evidence-based interventions to improve birthing outcomes.
- ✓ Collaborate with healthcare and community organizations as well as patients and families to improve patient care.
- ✓ Participate in Learning and Action Networks (LAN) that bring together healthcare professionals, patients, and other stakeholders around evidence-based action-oriented agendas to achieve rapid, wide-scale health improvements.
- ✓ Support quality improvement efforts by reporting data related to selected topic areas.

SEN Initiative Goals

- Standardize substance use screening for mothers at L&D intake
- Improve identification of and care for Substance Exposed Newborns and their families
- Decrease the length of stay for substance exposed newborns
- Connect families impacted by substance use to appropriate follow-up services and community-based supports prior to discharge
- Empower parents and caregivers to care for infants with in-utero substance exposure
- Support hospitals to implement Eat-Sleep-Console methodology

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Planned Process Measures

- # births
- # births to the well-baby nursery
- # mothers verbally screened for SUD
- # mothers screened for SUD using laboratory testing
- # mothers screened for SDOH using a standardized, validated tool
- # infants with any in-utero substance exposure; excluding infants that go straight to NICU after birth
- # infants with in-utero opioid exposure; excluding infants that go straight to NICU after birth
- # infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms
- # infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome
- Average (mean) total length of stay for infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms during the reporting month
- Median total length of stay for infants transferred out of the well-baby nursery for treatment/management of withdrawal symptoms during the reporting month
- # infants in well-baby nursery with a parent/caregiver referral for social work consult for in-utero substance exposure
- # infants with substance exposure who were discharged during the reporting month
- # infants with substance exposure and documentation that family/caregiver received a Plan of Safe Care prior to discharge
- % Physicians/NPs/PAs receiving education within the last two years on hospital protocols and best practices for providing care to infants with substance exposure
- % Nurses receiving education within the last two years on hospital protocols and best practices for providing care to infants with substance exposure
- If hospital or unit is transitioning to Eat-Sleep-Console (ESC), number of education opportunities on ESC methodology provided during reporting period
- # infants admitted to the NICU for hypoglycemia (sustainability measure)

Planned Structure Measures

- Hospital provides standardized staff education on compassionate, non-judgmental screening, patient education, and support
- Hospital uses standardized definitions of SEN/NAS
- Hospital uses a standardized screening protocol for maternal substance use at L&D intake, reviewed and updated based on legal requirements and best practices.
- Hospital uses a standardized protocol for referral to Child Protective Services related to in-utero substance use, reviewed and updated based on legal requirements and best practices.
- Hospital has established non-pharmacologic treatment protocols
- Hospital uses Eat-Sleep-Console in the Nursery
- Hospital uses Eat-Sleep-Console in the SCN/NICU
- Hospital has created or procured a comprehensive list of community resources, customized to include resources relevant for pregnant and postpartum people, that will be shared with all postpartum inpatient nursing units, the SCN/NICU, and outpatient pediatricians
- Hospital has created a standardized Plan of Safe Care template and protocol for families being discharged
- Hospital has established a mechanism of obtaining feedback from parents and caregivers about their care experience and regularly reviews this feedback.

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