

# MDPQC Office Hours



**Pushing for Progress: Birthing the Next Initiative**  
**February 10, 2026**

# Next Steps Hospital Assessment

Please rank which neonatal topic areas you would be most interested in working on:



Safe Sleep

# Possible Initiative Goals

- Parents or caregivers report an understanding of a safe sleep environment
- Parents or caregivers are prepared for a transition to home, including SDOH screening and resource linkage
- Healthcare professionals understand, endorse, and model safe sleep practices
- Community champions promote safe sleep



# Possible Data Reporting Elements

## Crib Audits:

- Infant sleeping supine
- Crib free of objects
- Hat removed once infant thermodynamically stable
- Crib flat

## Chart Audits:

- Education provided/acknowledged
- SDoH screening completed
- Resources given

## Structure Measures:

- Standardized staff education
- Safe Sleep Policy in place
- Standardized parent/caregiver education
- SDoH screening and referral process
- Resources available to enable safe sleep outside of hospital
- Partnership with outside practices/organizations to promote consistent messaging



# Safe Sleep

## Pros

- SIDS is the leading cause of post-neonatal infant death, which Safe Sleep greatly contributes to.
- Relevant for all patients in hospitals with all levels of neonatal care.
- There is extensive work on the community side regarding safe sleep, so this presents an opportunity for the MDPQC to engage hospitals in aligning efforts.

## Cons

- A Safe Sleep Initiative may not have enough substance for a two-year project period.
- Hospitals may already be implementing most of these components.
- Safe sleep implementation is more key in the community setting, so we may not be able to see an impact.



# Substance Exposed Newborns

# Possible Initiative Goals

- Improvement in the Identification of and Care for Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) and their families
- Families impacted by substance use are connected to appropriate follow-up services prior to discharge
- Parents and caregivers feel empowered to care for infants with in-utero substance exposure
- Cross-system collaboration and increased coordination among various settings, including outpatient and community organizations.



# Possible Data Reporting Elements

## Chart Audits:

- SEN notification made (as appropriate)
- Parent/caregiver counseled on recovery treatment services and Naloxone use
- Plan of Safe Care developed prior to discharge
- SDoH screening completed
- Referral for Social Work consult

## Structure Measures:

- Standardized staff education on compassionate, non-judgmental screening, pt. education and support
- Standardized definitions of SEN/NAS and non-pharmacologic treatment protocols
- Develop and maintain list of referral resources and communication pathways with state and local public health agencies
- Integration of people with lived experience in multidisciplinary care teams



# Substance Exposed Newborns

## Pros

- SUD and overdose was the leading cause of late postpartum pregnancy-associated deaths in Maryland from 2011-2020, contributing to increased risk of SEN.
- SEN/NAS was the highest rated neonatal topic among MDPQC hospitals.
- Positive outcomes for patients and health care systems, including decreased hospital stay and pharmacological treatment of infants ([Gallant et al., 2025](#))

## Cons

- May not be relevant statewide - Some hospitals see a higher patient population with SEN than others, depending on geographic location.
- Provider scope may be limited, due to the unique needs of families impacted by SEN.
- Hospitals may already be implementing some of these components or have worked on a similar initiative in the past.



# Discussion



# Decision Time



**Cast your vote [here!](#)**



HEALTH QUALITY INNOVATORS



# Next Month

Register for March Maternal Health Office Hours:

- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-1pm

[Register here](#)



HEALTH QUALITY INNOVATORS



# Open Discussion



**Please complete the evaluation poll before you go!**



HEALTH QUALITY INNOVATORS



# Contact Us



## For more information

Website: [www.mdpqc.org](http://www.mdpqc.org)

Listserv: [mdpqc@gaggle.email](mailto:mdpqc@gaggle.email)

The MDPQC Team:

- Katie Richards – [krichards@hqi.solutions](mailto:krichards@hqi.solutions)
- Yasmine Jackson – [yjackson@hqi.solutions](mailto:yjackson@hqi.solutions)
- Alynna Nguyen – [anguyen@hqi.solutions](mailto:anguyen@hqi.solutions)