

### What's New with the ALPQC

- 3rd Annual Summit Update
- ALPQC 2020 Initiatives
- COVID-19 in Alabama
- New Team Members

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for updates.



### 3rd Annual ALPQC Summit

The 3rd Annual ALPQC Summit was held February 27th in Montgomery. The Summit was partly funded by the March of Dimes, Ann Dial McMillan, and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education. It provided stakeholders an opportunity to learn about past and future ALPQC initiatives focused on improving health outcomes for Alabama mothers and babies.



### 3rd Annual ALPQC Summit – Continued

The Summit was a great success, with over half of birthing hospitals represented and approximately 160 people in attendance, up from 50 attendees at the 2019 Summit.

This year's Summit featured results from ALPQC's inaugural project, the *Birth Certificate Accuracy Initiative*, which achieved its aim of accurately reporting birth certificate key variables in 95% of birth records among participating hospitals. The results are being submitted to several notable meetings and conferences to disseminate these findings and share the success.

The Summit also introduced two initiatives: *Maternal Hypertension* and *Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome*. Attendees participated in workshops on implementation of toolkits and metrics, and heard firsthand accounts from Alabama hospitals that have previously enacted similar projects.

Of special note were powerful testimonies by Alabama mothers who have experienced maternal hypertension and neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome. Their stories served as a call to action and will continue to inspire us as we embark on this work. We are so grateful to them for sharing.

You can view the agenda, presentation slides and resources at our website  
<http://alpqc.org/resources>

## ALPQC 2020 Initiatives

### *Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)*

There has been a steady increase in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) nationally and in the state. This initiative will have a multi-faceted approach, aiming to increase the use of nonpharmacologic management among opioid exposed newborns, reduce newborns' exposure to pharmacologic management, reduce length of hospital stay, and increase the proportion of moms and babies discharged with a coordinated discharge plan in participating hospitals.

Hospitals will learn from each other as we guide them through implementation and standardization of proven evidence-based practices and tools developed by national organizations and successfully implemented by state PQCs.

### *Maternal Hypertension*

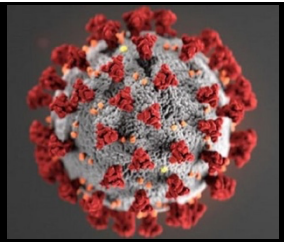
Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDPs) are among the leading causes of preventable severe maternal morbidity and mortality and have been on the rise in recent years. Our aim is to reduce severe maternal morbidities in women with HDP among participating hospitals.

As with the NOWS initiative, hospitals will engage in shared learning as we guide them through implementation of evidence-based practices using quality improvement methodologies. Participating in this initiative will also help hospitals meet The Joint Commission's New Standards for Perinatal Safety going into effect this year.



***Please join us!***

Go to [www.alpqc.org/initiatives](http://www.alpqc.org/initiatives)  
to find out more & sign up



## COVID -19 in Alabama

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ALPQC decided to postpone the start of its 2020 initiatives.

The safety and wellbeing of Alabama healthcare workers and families is our priority. We have compiled a list of resources from national sources and state partners to help hospitals and healthcare workers respond to this crisis and help families stay safe.

You can find this list on our website at [alpqc.org](http://alpqc.org)

We update the list frequently as guidance and tools are constantly emerging in this rapidly evolving situation.

We hope everyone stays well and safe.

## ALPQC Leadership and Staffing Changes

This spring we said goodbye to a dear member of our leadership team, Dr. Sara Mazzoni. Dr. Mazzoni served as the ALPQC Obstetric Lead and had been instrumental in the development of the ALPQC and implementation of our first initiatives. We will miss her dearly and wish her well.

We also give a warm welcome to Dr. Brian Brocato as our new Obstetric Lead. Dr. Brocato is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist with Brookwood Baptist Health. He previously practiced at the University of South Alabama and completed his medical, residency, and fellowship trainings in California and Tennessee. We are excited to have Dr. Brocato join us.

Lastly, we welcome a new staff member to the ALPQC, Evelyn Coronado-Guillaumet. Evelyn has worked on maternal safety initiatives in multiple settings at the local, state, and national level, most recently with the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health Program. She will be your new contact for all things ALPQC. You may reach Evelyn at [eguillaumet@uab.edu](mailto:eguillaumet@uab.edu).