



Transforming Postpartum Care: Postpartum Bracelet Pilot Set to Go Statewide

We are thrilled to announce that the ALPQC Postpartum Bracelet pilot program will be expanding statewide by the end of the first quarter in January, thanks to the generous sponsorship by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and the Caring Foundation. This expansion marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to improve maternal health outcomes across Alabama.

The Postpartum Bracelet pilot program has been instrumental in providing new mothers with critical health information and support during the postpartum period. The bracelets are designed to help doctors, nurses, and first responders recognize potential post-pregnancy health conditions in the event of a medical emergency. Postpartum patients are encouraged to wear the bracelet for at least six weeks for their health and safety.

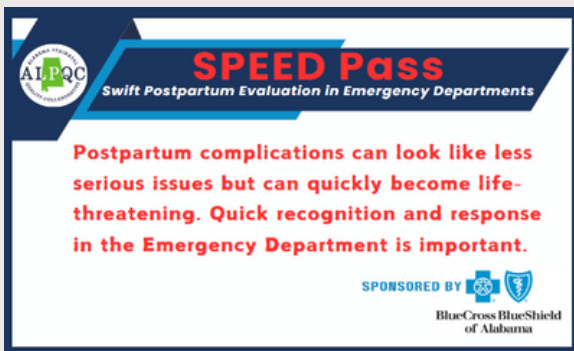
In addition to the bracelets, we are excited to introduce the Speed Pass, a new tool for self-advocacy and education created by the ALPQC. The Speed Pass is designed for patients to present to their healthcare providers, alerting them to potential postpartum complications and ensuring timely and appropriate care.

The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our seven pilot hospitals: Baptist Medical Center South, Brookwood Baptist Medical Center, Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children, Jackson Hospital, UAB Women & Infants Center, UAB St. Vincent's, and Walker Baptist Medical Center. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these institutions for their unwavering commitment to maternal health.

A special thank you goes to USA Children's & Women's Hospital, the first hospital in Alabama to launch a postpartum bracelet program. Their pioneering efforts have paved the way for this statewide expansion, and we are deeply grateful for their partnership and innovation.

As we move forward, we are excited to bring the benefits of the Postpartum Bracelet program and the Speed Pass to more mothers and families across the state. Together, with the support of BCBS of Alabama and the Caring Foundation, we are making strides towards a healthier future for families across Alabama.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to improving maternal and infant health in Alabama.



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ALPQC Honor Roll

4th Quarter

The ALPQC has announced the 4th quarter honor roll, which recognizes the outstanding efforts of the hospitals listed below. These institutions have demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving maternal and neonatal outcomes in Alabama. By completing 90% or more of the monthly and quarterly data reporting, participating in 1-on-1 monthly meetings with the QI-RN, and engaging in Action Period Calls, they have set a high standard for quality and commitment.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work!

Obstetric Hemorrhage Initiative

- Athens-Limestone Hospital
- Baptist Medical Center South
- Brookwood Baptist Medical Center
- DCH Northport Medical Center
- DCH Regional Medical Center
- East Alabama Medical Center
- Flowers Hospital
- Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children
- Madison Hospital
- Marshall Medical Center North
- Marshall Medical Center South
- Mobile Infirmary Medical Center
- North Baldwin Infirmary
- Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center
- Russell Medical Center
- Thomas Hospital
- UAB Women & Infants Center
- USA Children's & Women's Hospital
- USA Health Providence

Neonatal Hypothermia Prevention Initiative

- Baptist Medical Center East
- Baptist Medical Center South
- DCH Regional Medical Center
- Decatur Morgan Hospital
- East Alabama Medical Center
- Gadsden Regional Medical Center
- Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children
- Jackson Hospital
- Madison Hospital
- Marshall Medical Center North
- Marshall Medical Center South
- DCH Northport Medical Center
- Russell Medical Center
- UAB St. Vincent's
- UAB Women & Infants Center
- USA Children's & Women's Hospital
- Flowers Hospital
- USA Health Providence
- Brookwood Baptist Medical Center

Neonatal Initiatives

Teams continue to make great progress in the Neonatal Hypothermia Prevention Initiative this quarter, seeing overall reductions in both hyper and hypothermia across the state. Looking back at what teams have been able to achieve throughout 2024, we are excited to share that in 2024:

Our Level 1 and 2 NICU teams decreased:

- Any Hypothermia from 18.07% to 15.90%
- Mild Hypothermia from 16.27% to 13.15%
- and Hyperthermia from 9.34% to 7.34%

While in our Expanded Delivery Room (Golden Hour) Project, our Level 3 and 4 NICU teams decreased:

- Any hypothermia from 34.78% to 26.53%
- Intubation rates from 50.00% to 34.69%
- and severe IVH rates from 10.87% to 4.08%

These are great achievements and showcase the hard work that teams committed all year to improving patient outcomes.

Looking forward, areas we hope to continue to make advances in include decreasing mild and/or moderate IVH rates in infants less than 32 weeks as well as decreasing the amount of moderate to severely hypothermic infants greater than 32 weeks.

Thank you to all the hospital teams who dedicate their time and effort to making these valuable advances in neonatal care and for participating in this initiative alongside the ALPQC.

Obstetric Initiatives

Since its launch in January 2024, the ALPQC Obstetric Hemorrhage Initiative has made significant strides in improving maternal health outcomes. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of care for patients experiencing obstetric hemorrhage, a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Key Achievements (from Baseline to present):

- Risk Assessments increased from 87% to 95%
- Use of Quantitative Blood Loss (QBL) increased from 72% to 86%
- Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) decreased from 2.05% to 1.64%
- SMM among patients with an ICD-10 diagnosis related to obstetric hemorrhage decreased from 14.91% to 7.69%

We will continue to focus on enhancing patient support after an obstetric hemorrhage and the documented use of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) protocols. Providing comprehensive care and resources to patients during recovery is essential for their long-term health and well-being.

Thanks to the efforts of all hospitals in the initiative, we have made outstanding progress. The ALPQC remains committed to supporting hospitals with the necessary resources, education materials, and 1-on-1 quality coaching. By continuing to refine and implement best practices, the outlook is very promising for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality associated with obstetric hemorrhage.

New Resources

Introducing: NOWS Sustainability Spreadsheet

Help sustain the gains made throughout the Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) Initiative! Teams who participated in the initiative can now track data and create graphs to share with their teams by using a spreadsheet created by the ALPQC. Look out for an email containing access and instructions.

Not feeling like yourself?
We're here to help.



CALL OR TEXT

1-833-TLC-MAMA
National Maternal Mental Health Hotline



FREE 24/7

CONFIDENTIAL

Add the
Hotline to
your contacts



Upcoming Neonatal Initiative: Call for ideas

As we start to plan for the next Neonatal/Pediatric Quality Improvement Initiative, we are asking teams to share their perspectives on ideal projects to pursue. Teams will be asked in their monthly 1:1 calls to share insights into what projects they think could make the most impact throughout the state.

All ideas are welcome, and we look forward to hearing from everyone!

Upcoming Events



Please mark your calendars for the
2025 ALPQC Summit

July 10th-11th

Location and registration information will
be announced in upcoming communications.

ALPQC OB Webinar Series

February 19th - 1:30-2:15: Cardiac Conditions of Pregnancy

ALPQC's OB webinar series will kick off with Dr. Joanna Joly, Assistant Program Director at UAB's Advanced Heart Failure & Transplant Cardiology Fellowship Program. Dr. Joly will review cardiac conditions affecting pregnant and postpartum individuals, discuss their impact on maternal and fetal health, and share a high-level overview of the latest treatment strategies. This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals and anyone interested in maternal health.

March 19th - 1:30-2:15: PPH: Caring for Patients Who Decline Blood Products

This session will be led by Emily McCormick, MPH, RNC-MNN, C-EFM, C-ONQS, IBCLC, who contributed to the CMQCC's Obstetric Hemorrhage Toolkit. She will discuss the ethical considerations, alternative treatment options, and best practices for ensuring patient safety and well-being for patients who decline blood products. This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals looking to enhance their knowledge and skills in providing compassionate and effective care in these challenging situations.

April 16th, 1:30-2:15: Amniotic Fluid Embolism Webinar

Join us for a comprehensive lecture on amniotic fluid embolism (AFE), covering general understanding, treatment, management, and ways to best support patients and their families. Learn about the latest in AFE research and opportunities to get involved in improving AFE care and outcomes. This session will be led by Miranda Klassen, Executive Director of the AFE Foundation and AFE survivor, and Suzanne Baird, DNP, RN.

Share your Success!



Hospital shares are an excellent way to share successes you have experienced or struggles you might be facing when it comes to ALPQC's initiatives! They are a great way to foster collaboration and teamwork between all of our facilities and open up great discussion that benefit all teams! Please email info@alpqc.org to sign your team up for a Hospital Share on one of our upcoming Action Period Calls. We look forward to hearing from everyone!

REMINDERS



January 15th - OB Action Period Call, 1pm

January 22nd- Neonatal Action Period Call, 12pm

January 31st- OBH & NHP Monthly (December) & Quarterly (October-December) data due

February 19th- OB Action Period Call, 1pm

February 19th- OB Webinar Series, 1:30pm

February 26th - Neonatal Action Period Call, 12pm

February 28th- OBH & NHP Monthly (January) data due

March 19th- OB Action Period Call, 1pm

March 19th - OB Webinar Series, 1:30pm

March 26th - Neonatal Action Period Call, 12pm

March 31st- OBH & NHP Monthly (February) data due