



2013 Annual Report



Delaware

Perinatal COOPERATIVE

A MESSAGE FROM  
the Medical Director

It is my distinct pleasure to share the accomplishments of the Delaware Perinatal Cooperative since the last report in 2011. The period under review has seen significant accomplishments including the formal adoption of a charter to more clearly define its structure and the focus of its work. Our commitment to quality improvement in perinatal standards continues to shape the projects we choose with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

—Garrett Colmorgen, MD

# 2013 Accomplishments



## **Adopted and ratified a charter, mission and guiding principles.**

*The Cooperative's mission is to enhance community-based collaboration, promote evidence-based best practice, standardize care among providers and improve perinatal outcomes in Delaware.*

The cooperative committed to three guiding principles:

1. The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative aims to meet the goal of improving outcomes by focusing on adopting best practices, implementing improvements, measuring impact and sharing successes. Sharing between the Cooperative and the hospitals/facilities will ensure learning by all.
2. The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative serves as an advisory body, communicating and coordinating among members. The true work of improving quality and adherence to best practice standards takes place at the hospital/facility level. Resources are available to support selected projects at each hospital.
3. The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative adopts the quality improvement cycle (Plan-Do-Study-Act) as the mechanism for improving health outcomes and measuring impact.



## **Achieved 100 percent adherence to the 39-week initiative to improve birth outcomes.**

The goal of the 39 week initiative is to ensure that all births occur at or after 39 weeks unless a shorter term is medically indicated. The staffs of the hospitals and birthing facilities of the Perinatal Cooperative, the Delaware Healthcare Association and the Delaware Division of Public Health worked collaboratively to achieve 100% adherence to this goal.

3

**Collaborated on a campaign to promote safe-sleep guidelines with providers, patients and gatekeepers.**

The campaign, with an umbrella theme of Long Live Dreams, provides educational media that share four key messages:

**Babies should NEVER sleep in a bed with anyone**

**Babies should ALWAYS sleep on their backs**

**There should be NOTHING in the crib with your baby**

**Keep baby's environment SMOKE-FREE**



LONG LIVE DREAMS

4

**Neonatal Steroid Use by for Women at 24-34 Week Gestation Data Reporting.**

Each hospital in the state has signed on to this initiative and reports their neonatal steroids data at each Cooperative meeting. These reports allow each hospital to compare their data to that of colleagues, and share ideas about how to improve adherence in their facilities.

5

**17 Alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate Management.**

The Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC)-funded 17P program making Makena (17P-alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate) available to needy populations came to an end. However, the DHMIC remains committed the continued monitoring of provider access and use of 17P, including the availability of the drug for women. The Cooperative has identified and facilitated a streamlined process for providers to receive the drug within 24 to 48 hours of prescribing it.

# Overview of the Delaware Perinatal Cooperative

**The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative (DPC)** is established under the umbrella of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC). The DHMIC is authorized in Title 16 of the Delaware Code to “coordinate efforts to prevent infant mortality and improve the health of women of childbearing age and infants in the State.” The Delaware Perinatal Cooperative (DPC) has an Advisory Board composed of representatives from birth hospitals and the Birth Center. A Medical Director and Perinatal Nurse Educator are tasked with oversight, education and technical assistance. The Division of Public Health, Center for Family Health Research and Epidemiology, receives and compiles data for quality improvement purposes.

## Benefits:

Members of the Delaware Perinatal Cooperative have free access to:

- Current data to use for benchmarking and quality assurance/improvement.
- Best practices in clinical care through Internet-based continuing education and discussion forums.
- In-office education and technical assistance through the Perinatal Nurse Educator.

## 2014 Goals



New AAP Recommended Levels of Neonatal Care



Maternal Transport Protocol



Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome



Delaware  
**Perinatal** COOPERATIVE

## Perinatal Cooperative Members

St. Francis Hospital

Christiana Care Health System

Bayhealth Medical Center

Nanticoke Memorial Hospital

Beebe Medical Center

The Birth Center

Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

Delaware Academy of Family Physicians

Delaware Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics

Delaware Chapter of the Association of Women's Health,  
Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Delaware Section of the American Congress of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Delaware Chapter of the March of Dimes

Delaware Healthcare Association

Delaware Division of Public Health



*DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES*  
Division of Public Health  
Center for Family Health Research and Epidemiology

