

Maternity Care Quality Improvement Strategies with Potential to Reduce Liability

Strategy	Role in Maternity Care
Using national standardized <i>safety measures</i> , “Safe Practices” and “Serious Reportable Events,” to measure, report, and improve performance	National Quality Forum 2010, 2012a
Using national standardized perinatal care <i>quality measures and adverse event reporting systems</i> to measure, report, and improve performance	Hibbard et al. 2003; Levinson 2008; Main 2009; National Quality Forum 2012b
<i>Implementing payment reform</i> to align incentives with quality	Hyman and Silver 2005, 2006; James and Savitz, 2011; Lantos 2010; Rosenthal et al. 2009
Implementing maternity care <i>quality improvement collaboratives</i> or maternity-focused programs within broad-scope collaboratives	Childbirth Connection, 2012b; Main and Bingham 2008
Implementing focused <i>toolkits</i> to improve practice	Childbirth Connection 2012c
Implementing <i>medication safety systems</i> , including focus on common “high-alert” medications (synthetic oxytocin, narcotics/opioids, epidural or intrathecal medications)	Clark, Simpson et al. 2009; Institute for Safe Medication Practices 2008; Keohane and Bates 2008
Reducing unwarranted <i>overuse</i> use of interventions that are associated with sentinel events and serious maternal and newborn morbidity, including cesarean section and labor induction	Elkamil et al. 2011; Gilbert et al. 2010; Kramer et al. 2006; Marshall et al. 2011; Martinez-Biarge et al. 2012; Mercer et al. 2008; Murray et al. 2009; Silver 2010; Silver et al. 2006; Vardo et al. 2011
Implementing <i>shared decision making</i> using high-quality, up-to-date decision aids	Dugas et al. 2012; Frosch et al. 2011; Say et al. 2011; Stacey et al. 2011, Vlemmix et al. 2012
Developing systems for effective patient-centered <i>informed consent processes</i> , consistent with the predominant “patient” standard of informed consent and childbearing women’s desire for information prior to consent	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 2005; Declercq, Sakala et al. 2006; Matiasek and Wynia 2008; National Quality Forum 2005; Studdert, Mello, Levy et al. 2007
Harnessing potential of <i>electronic health records</i> to foster access to full and accurate documentation and data collection and to support appropriate care	Bernstein et al. 2005; Cusack 2008; Eden et al. 2008; George and Bernstein 2009; Haberman et al. 2009; Nielsen et al. 2000; Quinn et al. 2010
Building effective <i>teams</i> , improving interpersonal <i>relationships and communication</i> and strengthening <i>collaborative practice</i>	Hickson and Entman 2008; Lyndon et al. 2012; Lyndon et al. 2011; Mann and Pratt 2008; Meri�n et al. 2010; Nielsen and Mann 2008; Pratt et al. 2007; Williams et al. 2010
Implementing <i>high-reliability practice</i> that aligns care with best evidence and reduces practice variation, including use of clinical decision support, protocols, explicit evidence-based guidelines, checklists, etc.	Clark et al. 2011; Clark, Belfort, Byrom et al. 2008; Clark, Belfort, Saade et al. 2007; Faussett et al. 2011; Grobman et al. 2011; Hasley 2011; Knox and Simpson 2011; Pettker 2011

Implementing <i>quality of care peer review systems</i> (e.g., American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Voluntary Review of Quality of Care)	Lichtmacher 2008; Stumpf 2007
Using <i>laborists</i> (maternity care hospitalists) for labor and birth care, which may foster retention of core knowledge and skills, high intrapartum competence, on-site provider presence throughout labor, appropriate use of interventions to control onset of or hasten labor, better maternal experience, better health professional satisfaction	Devoe 2009; Gussman n.d.; Srinivas and Lorch 2012
In education programs, renewed focus on teaching <i>fundamentals of intrapartum care</i> and common standardized terminology	Cohen and Schifrin 2007; Devoe 2009
Taking <i>safety and emergency preparedness courses</i> , including Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics, Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently, Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma, and PRactical Obstetric MultiProfessional Training	Beasley et al. 2005; Childbirth Connection 2012a; Draycott et al. 2008; Grady et al. 2007; Milne and Lalonde 2007
Using <i>simulation</i> to build skills, knowledge, and teamwork and to prepare for emergencies	Fisher et al. 2011; Gardner and Raemer 2008; Gardner et al. 2008; Meri�n et al. 2010
Creating a <i>plan for respectful management of serious adverse events</i> , integrating into organization’s culture of quality and safety, and implementing it as needed	Conway et al. 2011
Conducting <i>analysis of adverse events</i> and associated circumstances, and incorporating lessons into care systems	Boothman and Blackwell 2010; Clark et al. 2012; Mulligan and Nechodom 2008; Schifrin and Ater 2006; Smetzer et al. 2010
Carrying out <i>analyses of closed and open claims</i> and circumstances associated with them, and incorporating lessons into care delivery systems	Angelini and Greenwald 2005; Clark, Belfort, Dildy et al. 2008; Crawford 2002; Hickson et al. 1992; Jevitt et al. 2005; Kravitz et al. 1991; Richards and Thomasson 1992; Ward 1991; White et al. 2005
When patients are harmed during care processes, implementing national “ <i>Care of the Caregiver</i> ” standard, through just treatment, respect, understanding and compassion, supportive care, and transparency	Denham 2010; National Quality Forum 2010
Developing and implementing <i>standards and measures for clinician behavior</i> , and carrying out system-level programs to identify problem clinicians and address shortcomings	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 2007b; Chervenak and McCullough 2005; Leape and Fromson 2006; Rosenstein 2011; Simpson 2007
Improving the <i>accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of data</i> in the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank, and using them to identify unsafe caregivers	Sibeli�s and Wakefield 2010; Weber and Ornstein 2010
Using implementation science to assess the <i>effectiveness of change strategies</i> and implementing effective approaches	Clark et al. 2010; McMaster University 2012

* **Learn more and find references:** Sakala C, Yang YT, Corry MP. *Maternity Care and Liability: Pressing Problems, Substantive Solutions*. New York: Childbirth Connection, January 2013. Available at <http://transform.childbirthconnection.org/reports/liability/>. See also open access “Maternity Care and Liability” articles in *Women’s Health Issues* 2013;23(1) at <http://www.whijournal.com/issues>.

