

Founded in 2003, the Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network (NNEPQIN) is a voluntary consortium of 48 organizations in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine involved in perinatal care. These include the academic medical centers, community-based birth hospitals, professional midwifery organizations, and state health departments.

NNEPQIN's mission is to improve perinatal care across Northern New England by:

- Offering state-of-the-science continuing education conferences
- Developing best practice guidelines and assisting members to adapt them for local implementation
- Facilitating benchmarking for excellence in care
- Ensuring consistent quality improvement (QI) parameters are available throughout the region
- Performing independent and confidential case review of unanticipated perinatal outcomes with structured feedback for participating organizations

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

TRIAL OF LABOR AFTER CESAREAN DELIVERY/VBAC PROJECT: NNEPQIN's genesis in 2003 was to preserve the VBAC option for women in community hospitals across the region. Work products include: • VBAC guideline matching resources to maternal risk level • Patient education handout • Patient consent form

EMERGENCY CESAREAN DELIVERY DRILLS TOOLKIT: Winner of 2005 ACOG Wyeth Ayerst Award, these guidelines include simulation scenarios, equipment lists & evaluation documents.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE GUIDELINES • Labor Induction: Elective and Indicated • Electronic Fetal Monitoring • Postpartum Hemorrhage • Oxytocin Management • Perinatal HIV Resources • Gestational Diabetes • Second Stage of Labor Management • Hypertension in Pregnancy • Home Birth to Hospital Transfer Guidelines • Obesity in Pregnancy • Perinatal Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorders • Care of the Newborn at Risk for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

USING DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE NNEPQIN is working with the state health departments in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine to develop a regularly updated hospital-level report of aggregate measures drawn from birth certificate and hospital discharge datasets. Sharing a common data set will enable NNEPQIN to track outcomes over time for QI projects. NNEPQIN is also working toward joining the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Program. AIM is led by ACOG under the auspices of the Council for Patient Safety in Women's Health Care.

CONFIDENTIAL REVIEW & IMPROVEMENT BOARD (CRIB) NNEPQIN launched this initiative in 2010 to perform multidisciplinary case reviews of unanticipated adverse outcomes under the protection of the Quality Assurance statutes in New Hampshire & Vermont. NNEPQIN uses lessons learned from these reviews to identify topics for regional education and guideline development.

MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE In 2012 the State of New Hampshire delegated to NNEPQIN the functions of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating causes of pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated maternal deaths. Based on these findings, NNEPQIN helps advocate for public health programs and initiatives to address these causes.

PUBLICATIONS Donnelly K, Lauria MR, Flanagan V. *Multistate Collaboration to Confidentially Review Unanticipated Perinatal Outcomes: Lessons Learned*. *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 126(4):765-9, October 2015.

Lauria M, Flanagan V, Capeless E. *Why VBAC in Northern New England is Still Viable: the Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network*, *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology* 55(4) 1021-1026, December 2012.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES: January 30 and June 4, 2020 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire and via [live stream!](#)

INFORMATION Victoria A. Flanagan RN, MS, NNEPQIN Director of Operations, Victoria.A.Flanagan@Hitchcock.org