NNEPQIN
Northern New England
Perinatal Quality Improvement Network
A Dartmouth Health Program

2026 NNEPQIN Fall Conference Session Descriptions

Day 1

8:15 – Tri-State Maternal Mortality Review Committee Recommendations in Action

Gain insight into how maternal mortality review findings in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are being translated into action to prevent maternal deaths and improve outcomes for birthing families. Presenters will share how state-level recommendations are informing maternal health improvement efforts across Northern New England.

9:15 – Understanding NNE VBAC Practices: VBAC Data from Our NNEPQIN Pilot Sites

Data presented from NNEPQIN pilot sites to help better understand current vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) practices and outcomes across Northern New England.

10:00 – Creating a System in NNE That is Culturally Responsive with New Americans and Immigrants

This session will consider opportunities to strengthen care, communication, and support for families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

11:15 Concurrent sessions

Introduction to 2027 Obstetric Billing Changes – Abridged Version

Get an overview of upcoming 2027 obstetric billing changes and what they may mean for perinatal care teams and health care organizations. This abridged session will highlight key updates and considerations to help attendees prepare for implementation.

Reframing Obesity and Practical Management in the Perinatal Period

Examine how language and perspectives around obesity can shape perinatal care and patient experiences. This session will highlight feasibleapproaches to supporting patients' health and well-being throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period using respectful, patient-centered care.

Caring for Infants with Perinatal Opioid Exposure with Reliable ESC Care Tool Assessments, Optimal Non-Pharm Care and Pharmacologic Rx when Needed

Review best practices for caring for infants with perinatal opioid exposure, including reliable Eat, Sleep, Console (ESC) assessments and supportive non-pharmacologic care. This session will also address when pharmacologic treatment may be needed to support infant comfort, safety, and well-being.

Alcohol Use Disorder Screening and Treatment in Pregnancy: Pearls for the Most Effective Approaches

Delve into effective approaches to screening for and treating alcohol use disorder during pregnancy. This session will share practical clinical strategies to support early identification, compassionate conversations, and connection to appropriate treatment and resources.

1:45 Concurrent Sessions

Teamwork at the Bedside: Obstetric–Neonatal Simulation & Reflection

Participate in an obstetric or neonatal skills and simulation focused on teamwork, communication, and coordinated care during time-sensitive clinical situations. Choose one option for hands-on skill, OB or Neonatal, and work on effective teamwork and communication using the TeamBirth principles.

Learning Together: Building Sustainable, Patient Centered VBAC Care

This interactive session will provide content on factors that affect increasing access with a focus on VBAC risk perception, policies on anesthesia's presence and consistent counseling and shared decision-making . The leads from the pilot data collection sites will share more about their sites practices, challenges and successes with significant time for group discussion and problem solving.

3:30 – Perinatal Care in Carceral Settings: Supporting Health, Humanity, and Well-Being

Explore the unique challenges and opportunities involved in providing perinatal care in carceral settings. This session will highlight approaches to supporting the health, dignity, and well-being of pregnant and postpartum people through compassionate, person-centered care.

Day 2

8:00 – Tri-State Infant Mortality Review Process: Recommendations in Action

Gain insight into how infant mortality review findings across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are translated into recommendations and meaningful action. This session will highlight opportunities to address contributing factors, strengthen collaboration, and improve outcomes for infants and families across Northern New England.

8:45 – What to do When Parents Refuse Medication or Testing: Responsibility and Reliability

Consider how perinatal care teams can navigate situations when parents decline recommended medications or testing for their newborn. This session will address clinical responsibilities, communication strategies, and approaches to balancing parental decision-making with newborn safety and well-being.

10:15 – Exploring How Professional Guideline Discrepancies Impact Inpatient Teamwork

Examine how differences in professional guidelines and clinical recommendations can affect communication, decision-making, and teamwork among inpatient perinatal care teams. Through facilitated discussion, participants will consider strategies for navigating these differences and strengthening collaboration to support consistent, high-quality patient care.

11:30 Concurrent Sessions

Beyond the Screen: What Women's Stories Teach Us About Perinatal Mental Health Care

Explore how women's lived experiences can deepen our understanding of perinatal mental health and inform more responsive, compassionate care. This session will highlight opportunities to use personal stories to identify gaps in care and strengthen support for pregnant and postpartum people.

Beyond Kegels: Support and Manage Pelvic Floor Health in the Perinatal Setting

Go beyond traditional pelvic floor exercises to explore ways to support pelvic floor health throughout the perinatal period. This session will highlight practical approaches to recognizing pelvic floor concerns, supporting recovery, and connecting patients with appropriate care.

PQC-VT NeoSims Program: Best Practices for Just in Time Care

Learn about how this partnership between the UVMMC NICU and Vermont Community Hospitals allows for on-site training in neonatal simulation to strengthen team readiness, build clinical skills and support high-quality neonatal care.

2:00 Concurrent Sessions

Postpartum Hemorrhage: A Collaborative Approach

Learn more collaborative, team-based approaches that support the timely recognition and management of postpartum hemorrhage. This session will highlight opportunities to strengthen communication, coordination, and clinical response to improve outcomes for birthing people.

Supporting Families and Ensuring Safety: Vermont Family Care Plans, CAPTA Notification, and Mandated Reporting

Gain a clearer understanding of Vermont Family Care Plans, CAPTA notification requirements, and a structured mandated reporting approach related to substance use during pregnancy. This session will discuss approaches to balancing infant safety with family-centered, supportive care and strengthening collaboration among health care teams and community partners.

Closing OB, Opening Conversation: Reflecting, Processing, and Moving Forward

Limited to individuals directly impacted by or involved in an OB unit closure.

Create space to reflect on the personal and professional impact of obstetric unit closures and the human-side of this complex issue. This session will support individual reflection, shared experience discussion, small group activities and suggested recommendations for how best to support the workforce during a challenging time.

3:15 – Military Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence and the Woman Veteran

Explore the impact of military sexual assault and intimate partner violence on women veterans, with a focus on recognizing their unique health care needs. This session will highlight opportunities to provide trauma-informed, compassionate, and responsive care that supports the health and well-being of women veterans.