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



NNEPQIN Fall Conference

Designing Strategies to Improve Perinatal Outcomes in Northern New England

November 16-17, 2026 In Person

Omni Mount Washington Resort, Bretton Woods, NH

Monday, November 16, 2026

7:00 AM	**Registration, Breakfast and Poster Viewing – Presidential Ballroom Foyer**
8:00	**Welcome and NNEPQIN Updates – Presidential Ballroom** *Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM, MSN, Executive Director, NNEPQIN* *Ella Damiano, MD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN* *Steve Ringer, MD, PhD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN* *Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Geisel School of Medicine, Lebanon, NH*
8:15	**Tri-State Maternal Mortality Review Committee Recommendations in Action – Presidential Ballroom** *Katy Leffel, RN, BSN, IBCLC, Perinatal Nurse Program Coordinator, Family and Child Health, Vermont Department of Health, Waterbury, VT* *Mariah Pfeiffer, MPH, BS, RN, C-EFM. Maternal Mortality Prevention Project Manager, Maine Medical Association – Center for Quality Improvement, Manchester, ME* *Allison M. Power, MPH, MSN, RN, Perinatal Nurse Consultant, Maternal & Child Health Section, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, NH DHHS - Division of Public Health, Concord, NH*
9:15	**Understanding NNE VBAC Practices: VBAC Data from Our NNEPQIN Pilot Sites – Presidential Ballroom** *Carole McBride, PhD, Assistant Professor, Robert Larner School of Medicine, Burlington, VT*
9:45	**Break & Poster Viewing – Presidential Ballroom Foyer**
10:00	**Creating a System in NNE That is Culturally Responsive with New Americans and Immigrants – Presidential Ballroom** *Ariel Zodhiates, MD, Clinical Program Coordinator Prenatal/OB Care, Greater Portland Health, Portland, ME*
11:00	**Move to Concurrent**
11:15	

Concurrent Sessions

Introduction to 2027 Obstetric Billing Changes – Abridged Version *Lauren MacAfee, MD, MSc* *Associate Professor, General OB/Gyn Division Director and Vice Chair of Informatics* *UVM Health* *Burlington, VT* **Presidential Ballroom**	**Reframing Obesity and Practical Management in the Perinatal Period** *Kimberley Sampson-Paine, MD, MSc, FACOG, DipABLM, DipABOM, MSCP* *Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology* *Southwestern Vermont Medical Center* *Bennington, VT* **Grand Ballroom**	**Caring for Infants with Perinatal Opioid Exposure with Reliable ESC Care Tool Assessments, Optimal Non-Pharm Care and Pharmacologic Rx when Needed** *Kathryn Dee L. MacMillan, MD* *Bonny Whalen, MD* *Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon, NH* **Lafayette Room**	**Alcohol Use Disorder Screening and Treatment in Pregnancy: Pearls for the Most Effective Approaches** *Alane O'Connor, DNP* *Director of Perinatal Addiction Medicine* *MaineHealth Maine Medical Center* *Portland, ME* **Reagan**

12:15 PM – 1:45 **Lunch – 1902 Main Dining Room**

Concurrent Sessions

Teamwork at the Bedside: Obstetric–Neonatal Simulation & Reflection (3 rooms)

Johanna Cobb, MD, Medical Director of Obstetric Anesthesia, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Ella Damiano, MD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN
Emily Donelan, MD, Medical Director, Birthing Pavilion, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Julie Irick, MSN, NNP-BC, Northern Region Perinatal Outreach Coordinator, Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center
Charles Mercier, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics, Golisano Children's Hospital, University of Vermont Health
Kelsey Murray, BSN, RNC-OB, Professional Development Nurse, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Kayla Panko, BSN, RNC-MNN, CBE, AIM Nurse Educator, UVM College of Medicine OB/GYN Dept./PQC-VT
Alan Picarillo, MD, Medical Director, NICU, Barbara Bush Children's Hospital
Ashley Reade RN, MSN, Clinical Leader, Pediatrics and the Special Care Nursery, The Family Place at Concord Hospital
Steve Ringer, MD, PhD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN
Michelle Tyler, MD, Medical Director and Fellowship Director, ICN, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Chandler Wallisch RN, MSN, Clinical Leader, Obstetrics, The Family Place at Concord Hospital
Emily Watson, RN, Southern Maine Perinatal Outreach Coordinator, MaineHealth Maine Medical Center

Reagan, Jefferson, Grand Ballroom North and South

Learning Together: Building Sustainable, Patient-Centered VBAC Care

Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM, MSN, Executive Director, NNEPQIN
Leigh Copsey, RN, Clinical Supervisor, MaineHealth Memorial Hospital, North Conway, NH
Katherine Howard, MD FACOG, Site Leader, Porter Obstetrics, Midwifery, and Gynecology, Porter Medical Center, Middlebury, VT
Tina Keach, RN, OB Manager, Educator, Littleton Regional Healthcare, Littleton, NH
Kelley McLean, MD, Associate Professor, Maternal Fetal Medicine, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
Olivia Pickering, BSN, MSN-Ed, RNC-IAP, Registered Nurse, Family Birth Center Labor & Delivery, MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Biddeford, Biddeford, Maine

Presidential Ballroom

3:15 **Break & Poster Viewing – Presidential Ballroom Foyer**

3:30 **Perinatal Care in Carceral Settings: Supporting Health, Humanity, and Well-Being – Presidential Ballroom**
Lisa Lamadriz MPH, RN, IBCLC, Clinical Research Nurse II, International Board Certified Lactation Consultant Department of OB/GYN
Haley Martell, Doula, CLC, CRSW
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

4:30 **Closing**

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

7:30 AM	**Breakfast & Poster Viewing – Presidential Ballroom Foyer**
8:00	**Tri-State Infant Mortality Review Process: Recommendations in Action – Presidential Ballroom** *Julia Irish, MPH, Injury Prevention Program Manager, Vermont Department of Health, Waterbury, VT* *Courtney Keane, MS, Bureau Chief, Family Health and Nutrition NH Div. of Public Health, Concord, NH* *Alan Picarillo, MD, Medical Director, NICU, Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, Portland, ME*
8:45	**What to do When Parents Refuse Medication or Testing: Responsibility and Reliability – Presidential Ballroom** *Steve Ringer, MD, PhD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH*
9:45	**Break & Hotel Checkout**
10:15	**Exploring How Professional Guideline Discrepancies Impact Inpatient Teamwork – Presidential Ballroom** *Emily Donelan, MD, Medical Director, Birthing Pavilion, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH* *Elisa Vandervort, FNP, CNM, University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, VT* *Emily Watson, RN, Southern Maine Perinatal Outreach Coordinator, MaineHealth Maine Medical Center, Portland, ME*
11:15	**Move to Concurrent**
11:30	

Concurrent Sessions

Beyond the Screen: What Women's Stories Teach Us About Perinatal Mental Health Care *Elizabeth Winterbauer, MPH, Evaluator PQC4ME Maine Medical Association Center for Quality Improvement, Manchester, ME* *Ariel Zodhiates, MD, Clinical Program Coordinator Prenatal/OB Care, Greater Portland Health, Portland, ME* **Lafayette Room**	**Beyond Kegels: Support and Manage Pelvic Floor Health in the Perinatal Setting** *Deirdre Folsom, PT* *Physical Therapy – Clinical lead* *Rehabilitation Therapy* *University of Vermont Medical Center* *Colchester, VT* **Presidential Ballroom**	**PQC-VT NeoSims Program: Best Practices for Just in Time Care** *Whittney D. Barkhuff, MD, PhD Neonatologist, Medical Director* *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit* *University of Vermont Medical Center* *Burlington, VT* **Grand Ballroom**

12:30PM	**Lunch – 1902 Main Dining Room**

2:00

Concurrent Sessions		
Postpartum Hemorrhage: A Collaborative Approach *Johanna Cobb, MD, Medical Director of Obstetric Anesthesia* *Ella Damiano, MD, Co-Medical Director, NNEPQIN* *Kelsey Murray, BSN, RNC-OB, Professional Development Nurse* *Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH* **Presidential Ballroom**	**Supporting Families and Ensuring Safety: Vermont Family Care Plans, CAPTA Notification, and Mandated Reporting** *Kayla Panko, BSN, RNC-MNN, CBE, AIM Nurse Educator, UVM College of Medicine OB/GYN Dept./PQC-VT, Burlington, VT* *Michelle Shepard MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UVM Larner College of Medicine/Golisano Children's Hospital at UVM Health, Burlington VT* **Grand Ballroom**	**Closing OB, Opening Conversation: Reflecting, Processing, and Moving Forward** *Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM, MSN, Executive Director, NNEPQIN, Lebanon, NH* *Emily Brayton, BSN, RN, Director of Operations, NNEPQIN, Lebanon, NH* **Lafayette Room**

3:00 **Break & Poster Viewing – Presidential Ballroom Foyer**

3:15 **Military Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence and the Woman Veteran – Presidential Ballroom**
Melissa Martinez-Adorno, MD, CPE, FACOG, Chair NH Section ACOG, Women's Health Medical Director, Manchester VAMC, Manchester, NH

4:15 **Closing**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity:

1) Learners will be able to describe at least two innovative strategies to improve pregnant, postpartum, and neonatal outcomes.
2) Learners will be able to implement interprofessional strategies to improve communication, care coordination, patient safety, and system-level practices that support optimal obstetric and neonatal outcomes.

ACCREDITATION

In support of improving patient care, Dartmouth Health is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

American Medical Association (AMA)
Dartmouth Health designates this live activity for a maximum of *11.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
Dartmouth Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 11.75 ANCC contact hours.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
As a Jointly Accredited Organization, Dartmouth Health is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 11.75 general continuing education credits.

Other Learners: All other learners may claim CME-designated participation credit. Consult your professional licensing board regarding the applicability and acceptance of CME-designated participation credit for programs certified for credit by organizations accredited by Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Education.