

Severe Maternal Morbidity after Delivery Discharge among U.S. Women, 2010-2014

Background

- Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) includes a range of serious pregnancy complications that result in significant short-term or long-term consequences to a woman's health.
- Most research and prevention efforts addressing SMM focus on the delivery hospitalization.
- Less is known about SMM diagnosed after delivery discharge.

The Burden

A significant number of women have severe complications that start after they leave the hospital. **One in seven SMM** cases among commercially-insured women, and **almost one in six SMM** cases among Medicaid-insured women first developed after delivery discharge.



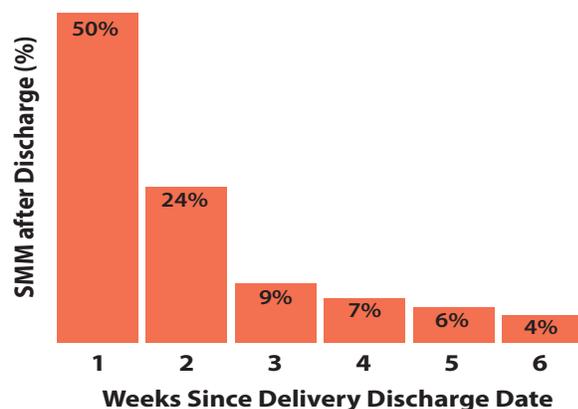
Commercially-insured



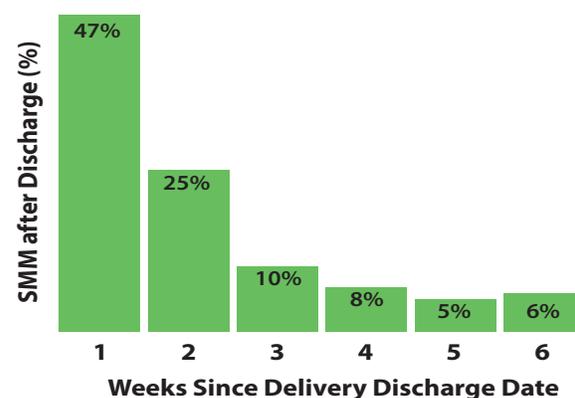
Medicaid-insured

Timing of SMM After Delivery Discharge

Of SMM cases that were identified within the first six weeks (42 days) after delivery discharge, about **three-quarters** were identified in the first two weeks.



Commercially-insured



Medicaid-insured

The Most Common SMM Indicators after Delivery Discharge



Blood transfusion



Air and thrombotic embolism



Pulmonary edema / Acute heart failure



Eclampsia



Sepsis



Puerperal cerebrovascular disorders



Adult respiratory distress syndrome



Acute Renal Failure

Disparities in SMM

Racial disparities in SMM after delivery discharge persist. Among deliveries insured by Medicaid, the odds of SMM among Black women are about 1.7 times more likely than White women.

The Way Forward

Expanding the focus of SMM to those diagnosed after delivery discharge and continued monitoring of SMM may:

- improve our understanding of the burden and impact of SMM, and
- create new opportunities to improve maternity and postpartum care.

For More Information

Chen J, Cox S, Kuklina EV, Ferre C, Barfield W, Li R. Assessment of Incidence and Factors Associated with Severe Maternal Morbidity after Delivery Discharge among Women in the US. JAMA Network Open. 2021; <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.36148>

For more information on CDC's activities to better understand severe maternal morbidity, please visit www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/severematernalmorbidity.html



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