

Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs)

It's important that all pregnant women and newborns receive the best health care. This helps women have healthy pregnancies and their babies get a healthy start in life.

Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, or PQCs, are clinical teams and public health leaders working together across a state to improve the quality of care for mothers and their babies. To help them accomplish their goals, PQCs partner with key state agencies and organizations, including hospitals, health departments, health professional associations, universities, state chapters of non-profit organizations, health insurance organizations, and state Medicaid agencies. PQCs also partner with the families and communities they serve.

How do PQCs work? PQCs often start by selecting projects that address major health problems for mothers and babies in their state. Then, they follow three steps to successful quality improvement. First, they recruit multiple hospitals across the state to participate in the project. Within each hospital, they empower multi-disciplinary teams to apply various tools to quickly improve health care practices. Second, PQCs rapidly collect, analyze, and share project results with participating hospitals. This helps hospitals view their progress and compare it to other hospitals. Tracking progress helps hospitals identify opportunities for improvement and make changes as quickly as possible. Third, PQCs facilitate collaborative learning. The hospitals participate in educational webinars and learning calls to review their data, share best practices, and discuss opportunities for improvement.

The number of state PQCs has grown considerably over the last decade. Most states now have active PQCs in various stages of development.

PQCs have helped improve health care and outcomes for moms and their babies across their states. Some examples of PQC successes include reducing unnecessary medical interventions, such as early elective deliveries; reducing infections in the neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU; and reducing severe pregnancy complications.

CDC provides support to PQCs to improve the quality of care for moms and their babies, works with experts to develop tools PQCs can use to further their development, and supports the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives to serve as a resource for PQCs across the country.

Learn more about how to develop and support PQCs at our website, cdc.gov/PQC.