



Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative

Improving Birth Outcomes

The District of Columbia Medicaid & Managed Care Organizations

The District of Columbia (DC) Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (HSCSN), Chartered Health Plan, Health Right, Inc., and Unison Health Plan, in partnership with the DC Department of Health, George Washington University, and other experts in health care and health care quality improvement are implementing a multi-year initiative to improve the health of babies born to mothers in the DC Medicaid Managed Care programs.

The goals of this collaboration are to reduce the rates of:

- Premature births and infants born with low birth weight;
- Miscarriages;
- Maternal HIV screening and babies who are HIV positive; and
- Infants who die in the first year of life.

Collaborative members began this work in March of 2009. We aim to achieve these goals by: calling attention to the risk factors associated with adverse birth outcomes; ensuring that every Medicaid and Alliance mother is screened for these risk factors; coordinating the prenatal and postpartum care of at-risk mothers and babies across payers, providers, and health plans; and providing information to case managers, providers, and mothers about health care and psychosocial resources that can help every baby to be a healthy baby.

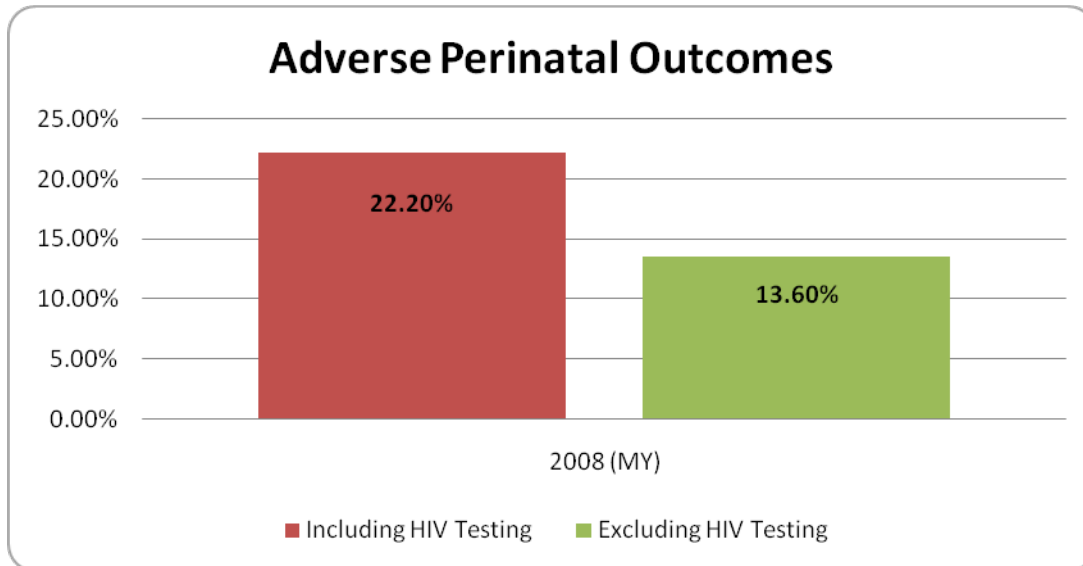
The Perinatal QI Collaborative will monitor its efforts annually by measuring the extent to which the collaborative goals are achieved for the DC DHCF managed care program as a whole. Understanding, that the goal of improving health outcomes cannot be truly achieved by any of the Collaborative entities themselves; but through the collective efforts of the collaborative. However, each health plan is responsible for addressing plan specific barriers, identifying opportunities for improvement and subsequently develops and implements targeted interventions. HSCSN annually will track the results of their individual initiatives to improve health outcomes for pregnant women and their babies and report them to Delmarva, the District's external quality review organization (EQRO). Calendar year 2008 will serve as the baseline measurement year. (Refer to Table 1)

The ***Adverse Perinatal Outcome*** quality performance measure and all of its components are described as follows; **Adverse Perinatal Outcomes:** The rate of adverse perinatal events, (as defined below) that occurred among pregnancies ending in the calendar year, and infants ages 0-365 days in the same calendar year. Adverse events are defined as:

- Neonates with birth weight less than 2,500 grams
- Neonates of 32 weeks or less gestational age
- Pregnant women NOT tested for HIV prior to giving birth
- Pregnancies ending in miscarriage or fetal loss (early or late)
- Death of infant ages 0-365 days

This rate is reported two (2) ways, inclusive and exclusive of HIV testing. Again this is a baseline measurement and there are no national benchmarks therefore no comparative data is truly available. HSCSN has however; set its internal goal at zero.

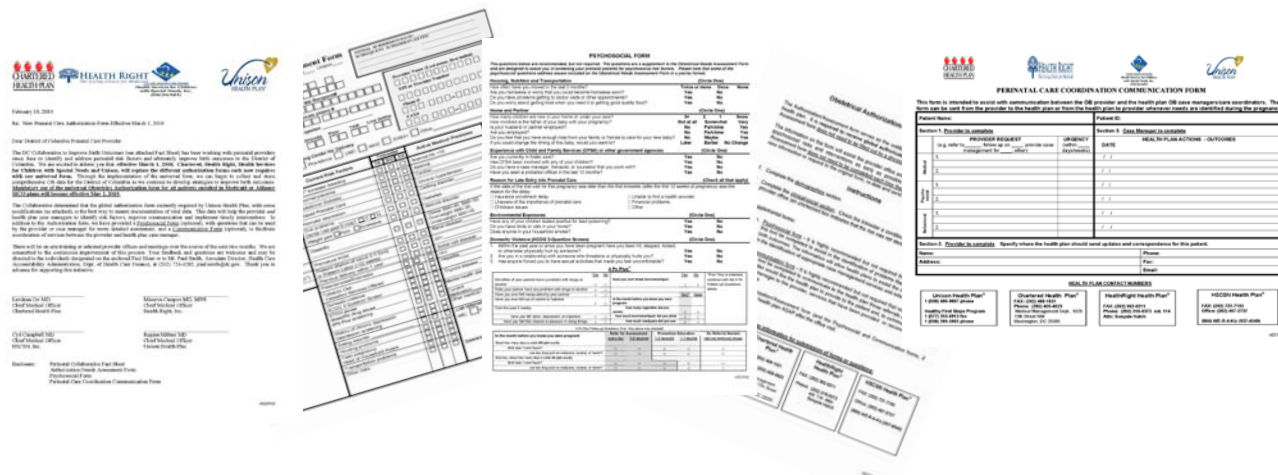
Table 1: HSCSN Adverse Perinatal Rate



*MY: Measurement year

Perinatal QI Collaborative Accomplishments

- Establishment of regular monthly QI Collaborative meeting.
- HSCSN sponsored a continuing education event, Improving Perinatal Outcomes, at Howard University Hospital in May 2009
- Met with leading area OB/GYN practitioners to champion and gain input on a Prenatal Risk Screening Tool for adoption and use; adopted a Prenatal Risk Screening Tool for District use.
- Establishment of a regular monthly meeting with the leading area OB/GYN practitioners
- Decision made to incorporate the Prenatal Risk Screening Tool in the pregnancy global authorization form
- Discuss provider and office training options at the February MCO Provider Collaborative meeting
- Internal meeting involving Chief Medical Officer, Director of Quality/Accreditation and Director of Care Management to enhance care management program and systems for pregnant enrollees to support the perinatal QI collaborative and HEDIS performance measures.
- The Perinatal QI collaborative performance measure specifications finalized in January 2010.
- Practitioner Prenatal Risk Screening Tool/Auth, instructions & communication form were mailed out in late February with an implementation date of May 1, 2010.



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Members

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District of Columbia Section

Chartered Health Plan

Delmarva Foundation, Inc.

District of Columbia Department of Health, Community Health Administration

District of Columbia Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Administration

District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance

George Washington University, Health Policy Department

Health Right, Inc.

Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (HSCSN)

Howard University Hospital - Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.

Unison Health Plan

Washington Hospital Center, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology