

The Impact of the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care Severe Maternal Hypertension – Optimizing Obstetrical Care



www.tipqc.org

PROBLEM

Tennessee has seen a marked increase in hypertensive related morbidity and mortality in the maternal population in recent years, and this trend has resulted in a growing number of women who require hospital care for management of severe hypertension. There are also gaps in the recognition and treatment of patients with hypertensive disorders during pregnancy across the state.

ACTION

Starting in spring 2021, 15 hospitals from across the state joined the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care (TIPQC) to promote the consistent application of diagnostic and treatment bundles and protocols to optimize the outcomes of patients with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Participating hospitals were provided a toolkit, data collection tools, and a road map for implementation. Teams participated in monthly huddles, quarterly learning sessions, and annual state-wide meetings.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

While the global aim was to reduce the rate of severe morbidities in pregnant and postpartum women with severe hypertension, the participating hospitals focused on improving the percent of birthing patients with acute-onset hypertension who are appropriately treated within 1 hour. Pilot teams began collecting data in October 2020 and the additional statewide teams began collecting data in January 2021.

As shown in Figure 1, the pilot teams were able to increase their timely treatment of severe hypertension from 43% to 67% (in aggregate) from Q3 2020 to Q4 2021 – a 56% increase. The additional statewide teams have also improved their timely treatment – from 32% to 57% (a 78% increase). The participating teams have also monitored their timely treatment disaggregated by race and ethnicity to address any possible disparities (Figure 2).

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE

The collaborative and statewide efforts of TIPQC and the participating hospitals have all contributed to this improvement. While the project has already vastly increased the awareness and use of the hypertension protocols, the participating hospitals continue their efforts to further improve their timely treatment.

Figure 1

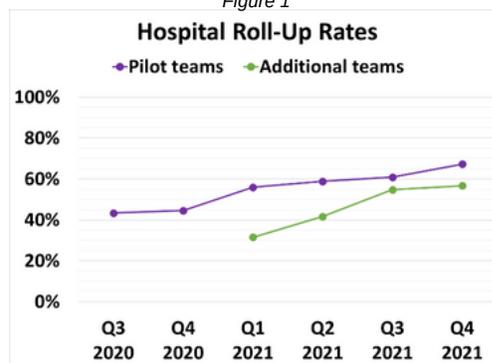
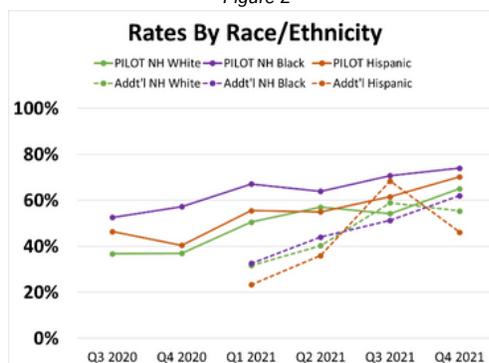


Figure 2



Project Statistics

56%

increase in the timely treatment of severe hypertension among the pilot teams

78%

increase in the timely treatment of severe hypertension among the additional teams



CONTACT

For more information, please contact Brenda Barker, TIPQC Executive Director, at brenda.barker@tipqc.org, or visit our website at www.tipqc.org.