



Rural Improving Maternal & Perinatal Access, Care, and Teamwork (IMPACT) Sprint Charter

Introduction

The Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MNPQC) Rural Improving Maternal & Perinatal Access, Care, and Teamwork (IMPACT) Sprint is a six-session webinar series that supports and strengthens rural and critical access hospitals' obstetric emergency readiness to improve maternity care safety and quality. Rural birthing and nonbirthing facilities face unique challenges, including low delivery volumes, limited staffing resources, communities without access to maternity care, and the need for timely stabilization and transfer when complications arise. Through a combination of evidence-based education, peer learning, quality improvement methods, and practical tools, participating individuals will have the opportunity to assess current practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and implement strategies to enhance readiness across the continuum of obstetric emergency care.

Program Overview

The MNPQC Rural IMPACT Sprint consists of six monthly virtual learning sessions held from September 2026 through February 2027. Each session combines subject matter expertise, interactive discussion, and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and quality improvement. Content areas are organized around key components of AIM's Obstetric Emergency Readiness Resource Kit and the AIM "5 Rs" framework—Readiness, Recognition and Prevention, Response, Reporting and Systems Learning, and Respectful, Equitable, and Supportive Care.

Topics will include foundational concepts of obstetric emergency readiness; standardization of hemorrhage supplies and systems; team roles, communication, and simulation; maternal early warning systems and escalation pathways; stabilization and transfer coordination; and strategies to sustain improvements through data, debriefing, and a culture of continuous learning. Participants will engage in collaborative discussions, share successful practices, and apply quality improvement methods to address barriers specific to rural maternity care settings. The Rural IMPACT Sprint is intended to equip participants with practical tools and resources that can be adapted to local contexts while promoting statewide collaboration and shared learning.

Program Aim

By February 2027, participating individuals will increase obstetric emergency readiness by implementing or strengthening evidence-based processes related to emergency preparedness, recognition, response, communication, and transfer coordination. Through participation in the Rural IMPACT Sprint, individuals will assess current readiness, identify opportunities for improvement, and test sustainable changes that support timely recognition and management of obstetric emergencies. The program aims to foster a culture of safety and continuous learning, improve coordination across care settings, and enhance access to ***socially appropriate and*** high-quality maternity care for patients in rural communities throughout Minnesota.

Goals and Objectives

Program Goals:

- Strengthen obstetric emergency readiness systems by ensuring reliable access to standardized protocols, essential supplies, medications, and communication tools adapted to rural and critical access hospital settings.
- Improve early recognition of obstetric complications by implementing or enhancing maternal early warning systems, escalation pathways, and timely communication triggers to reduce delays in clinical response.
- Strengthen emergency response, teamwork, and transfer coordination through defined team roles, structured communication practices, simulation-based learning, and clear stabilization and transfer workflows with higher-level care partners and EMS.
- Build sustainable systems for learning and improvement by embedding measurement, debriefing, and quality improvement practices into routine workflow to support ongoing readiness and “holding the gains” over time.

Participant Expectations

- Participants will actively engage in practical discussions and activities designed to build skills, awareness, and capacity to address obstetric emergency practices in rural and critical-access perinatal care settings. These activities include:
 - Reviewing and discussing best practices for obstetrical emergencies in rural perinatal care, including successful statewide and national models.
 - Developing action plans tailored to their healthcare setting to support sustainable care practices for providing perinatal care.
 - Collaborating with peers and experts to share insights, challenges, and innovative approaches for improving obstetric care and accessibility.
 - Completion of both a pre- and post-program survey to evaluate learning throughout the Sprint

Benefits of Participation

Participants in the Rural IMPACT Sprint will gain:

- **Access evidence-based tools and resources** to strengthen obstetric emergency readiness, including protocols easily located in the EHR, checklists, simulation strategies, and practical implementation guidance tailored to rural and critical access settings.
- **Learn from subject-matter experts and peer hospitals in a collaborative learning environment that promotes the sharing of successful practices, challenges, and quality-improvement strategies.**
- **Strengthen multidisciplinary teamwork and communication** by applying principles from the AIM Obstetric Emergency Readiness Resource Kit
- **Certificate of Completion/Attendance**, which can be requested to claim Continuing Education credits.
- **Enhance coordination across the maternal care continuum** by improving stabilization, transfer, and communication processes with EMS partners and higher-level centers to support timely, equitable, and high-quality care for pregnant and postpartum patients.

Timeline

- **September 17th, 2026, 12-1 pm:** Foundations of Obstetric Emergency Readiness
- **October 15th, 2026, 12-1 pm:** Recognition & Early Warning Systems
- **November 12th, 2026, 12-1 pm:** Team Roles, Communication & Drills
- **December 17th, 2026, 12-1 pm:** Hemorrhage Readiness—Supplies & Systems
- **January 14th, 2027, 12-1 pm:** Response & Transfer Coordination
- **February 11th, 2027, 12-1 pm:** Sustainability, Data, & Culture

Contact Information

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