

Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative



Partnering to Improve Health Care Quality
for Mothers and Babies

March 7, 2016

Dear Florida Hospital Leaders,

Breast milk is the optimal source of nutrition for babies, especially those under 1,500 grams at birth. Currently, only about 45 percent of infants cared for in Florida's NICUs receive any breast milk through discharge.

The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative is launching an evidence-based statewide quality improvement initiative aimed at increasing the number of very low birth weight infants in Florida's Level II and III NICU's who receive mother's own milk at discharge. This **Mother's Own Milk (MOM) Initiative** will focus on mothers' intent to provide their own milk, establishing milk supply, maintaining supply, and potentially transitioning to the breast before discharge.

We invite you and your hospital to apply to be part of the MOM Initiative. A variety of resources will be provided to support interested hospital teams, including a hospital toolkit, evidence-based clinical recommendations from the FPQC's interdisciplinary advisory group, participation in a kickoff training, grand rounds, technical assistance from experts in the field, online training webinars and collaborative calls, and a secure data collection portal with monthly quality improvement data reports. All are provided at no cost to participating hospitals courtesy of the Blue Foundation and the Florida Department of Health.

To be involved in the MOM Initiative, please complete the online application at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/MOMapplication>. All Level II & III NICUs are welcome. Deadline for submitting an application is **April 15, 2016**. Please make sure you carefully review the MOM Initiative Implementation Guide.

For more information on this initiative, please visit the MOM Project site at FPQC.org. If you have questions or need assistance, please e-mail FPQC@health.usf.edu. Accepted hospitals will need to sign letters of commitments by May 2016.

Please have your proposed hospital quality improvement leadership team mark their calendars now: The FPQC will hold an initiative orientation and training kick-off meeting for teams from participating hospitals on May 18, 2016 in Orlando; a minimum of two team members will be required to attend.

We hope your hospital will consider applying to participate in this QI initiative to prevent infant morbidity and mortality in Florida.

Sincerely,

William M. Sappenfield, MD, MPH
Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative