



2022 Focus Areas

With support from the [Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs](#), the PA PQC has expanded its focus to Maternal Substance Use and Substance-Exposed Newborns (SEN), including maternal OUD and NAS. To prepare for this expansion in late 2021, PA PQC SUD and SEN Workgroups expanded the PA PQC OUD and NAS Driver Diagrams and measures to the new PA PQC [Maternal Substance Use Driver Diagram](#) and the [SEN Driver Diagram](#). At the request of MDWISE, the PA PQC is now forming a statewide workgroup to improve the definition for “substance-affected newborns” and create Plans of Safe Care online learning modules for providers. The PA PQC’s other focus areas for 2022 include Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD), Immediate Postpartum LARC, and Hypertension.

Update

Due to this expansion and the impact of COVID-19, the PA PQC adopted a [uniform timeline](#) and a set of [expectations](#) and [minimum participation criteria](#) across all of its initiatives, with additional supports. During the January through March 2022 [recruitment period](#), [52 birth hospitals](#), representing 81% of live births in PA, formally [joined or re-committed](#) to their PA PQC initiatives. These hospitals have now entered the April 2022 through March 2023 [Implementation Period](#), which will be followed by an April 2023 through March 2024 [Sustaining Period](#). (40 of the 52 birth hospitals include a NICU Level II-IV.)

- **39** hospitals committed to the [Substance Exposed Newborn Initiative](#) (which includes NAS)
- **34** hospitals committed to the [Maternal Substance Use Initiative](#) (which includes OUD)
- **18** hospitals committed to the [Immediate Postpartum LARC \(IPLARC\) initiative](#)
- **23** hospitals committed to the [Moving on Maternal Depression \(MOMD\) Initiative](#)
- **23** hospitals committed to the PA AIM [Severe Hypertension Treatment Initiative](#)

During the Implementation Period, the perinatal care teams from the PA PQC sites form a team, participate in [quarterly Learning Sessions](#), launch [quality improvement initiatives](#), access quality improvement resources (including [coaching](#), milestone-based [Quality Improvement Awards](#), [toolkits](#), initiative-specific [Virtual Meetings](#), and [trainings](#)), and report quarterly [aggregate data](#) via surveys and the PA PQC Data Portal to drive improvement towards the collective statewide goals.

Recent Results

Among hospitals that submitted surveys for the October–December 2021 quarter, the PA PQC observed:

- **52%** increase in the percentage of hospitals providing standardized education materials for OUD/NAS
- **56%** increase in the percentage of hospitals using validated, self-reported screening tools for maternal substance use
- **52%** increase in the percentage of hospitals using clinical order sets for maternal OUD
- **18%** increase in the percentage of hospitals providing medications for OUD
- **37%** increase in the percentage of hospitals using standardized non-pharmacologic protocols for NAS
- **23%** increase in the percentage of hospitals using standardized pharmacologic protocols for NAS
- **11 of the 14 hospitals** in the IPLARC put in place the structures and processes to routinely counsel, offer, and provide IPLARC