

What Works: Health Care and System Interventions



[Maternal Safety Bundles](#), AIM and Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care: Standardization of health care processes has been shown to improve outcomes and quality of care. Each patient safety bundle is a collection of 10-13 best practices for improving safety in maternity care that have been vetted by experts in practice. The goal of the bundles is to move established guidelines into practice with a standard approach.



[Advancing the Human Right to Safe and Respectful Maternal Health Care](#), Black Mamas Matter, 2018: This toolkit provides a comprehensive overview of information and resources on Black maternal health and identifies actions policymakers can take to address maternal health within the human rights and reproductive justice frameworks



[Maternal Quality Improvement Toolkits](#), California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative: These toolkits aim to improve the health care response to leading causes of preventable death among pregnant and postpartum women as well as to reduce harm to infants and women from overuse of obstetric procedures. All Toolkits include a compendium of best practices, care guidelines, implementation guide, and professional education slide set.



[Stop, Look, Listen! Highlights from To Have and To Hold: Maternal Safety and the Delivery of Safe Patient Care](#), Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, 2013: This report stresses that the three simple words—Stop, Look, and Listen!—can be the reminder for the health care team to always be aware of the need for early recognition of patient complaints that may indicate the beginning stages of a condition that is preventable and could, over time, become life-threatening for the mother or her child.



[Always Ask Provider Reminder Tool](#), AMCHP: This tool reminds all providers, not just maternity care providers, to ask women at every visit if they are pregnant or if they have been pregnant within the last year.



CDC, 2017, [Meeting the Challenges of Measuring and Preventing Maternal Mortality in the United States](#): Dr. John Iskander and Dr. Michael Lu discuss why more than 700 women in the U.S. die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth and how to prevent these deaths.



[Screening for Perinatal Depression](#), ACOG, 2015: ACOG recommends that clinicians screen patients at least once during the perinatal period for depression and anxiety symptoms using a standardized, validated tool. Screening must be coupled with appropriate follow-up and treatment when indicated and systems should be in place to ensure such follow-up.



[Making Pregnancy and Childbirth Safer in the U.S.: Insights from 12 States](#), Merck for Mothers: Twelve maternal mortality review committees identified underlying causes of maternal death including hypertension and hemorrhage and uncovered emerging causes such as chronic disease, mental health issues, substance use and domestic violence. Using insights from their individual states, the committees designed life-saving solutions for health providers, women and communities.



[Women’s Preventive Services Initiative](#): HRSA supports the Women’s Preventive Services Initiative, a five-year effort that aims to improve women’s health across the lifespan. The Initiative engages a coalition of clinicians, academic, and consumer-focused health professional organizations to identify – through scientifically rigorous review – preventive services and screenings to be used in clinical practice.

[Click here to return to the Maternal Mortality Prevention webpage](#) or visit healthystartepic.org.