EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CONTRACEPTION

Hospital teams across Illinois increase access to immediate postpartum long-acting reversible contraception

The Problem

Closely spaced pregnancies are associated with higher rates of negative maternal and infant outcomes, including preterm birth and low birth weight.

Between 40 percent and 57 percent of women report having unprotected intercourse before their six-week postpartum visit, suggesting a need for access to immediate postpartum contraception.

In 2015, Illinois Medicaid announced that Immediate Postpartum Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (IPLARC) is reimbursable outside the delivery bundle, yet before the start of the IPLARC initiative in 2018, few Illinois hospitals were offering IPLARC.

In 2010, 52 percent of pregnancies in Illinois were unintended. Between 2011 and 2016, 29 percent of pregnancies occurred prior to the recommended healthy pregnancy spacing of 18 months after delivery.

Increased Access to LARC Improves Options for Women

Long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods, including intrauterine devices and contraceptive implants, are not only safe—they are the most effective form of reversible contraception. Several women's health and physician organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (ACOG), support the expansion of access to LARCs immediately after delivery.

IPLARC Initiative: Increasing Availability of Immediate Postpartum LARC

The Illinois Perinatal Quality Initiative (ILPQC) in 2018 deployed a statewide initiative to increase use of ACOG guidelines and support hospital-based teams to develop the capacity and resources to offer IPLARC. ILPQC supported hospital team efforts to facilitate LARC insertion trainings with ACOG for 120 clinicians and implementation efforts through on-site hospital key players meetings.

Approximately 30 hospitals across the state are working to implement systems and clinical culture changes to ensure:

- Patients receive comprehensive contraceptive counseling, including the option of IPLARC, prenatally and during the delivery admission.
- Patients who desire and are eligible for IPLARC receive it.
- Billing is facilitated and reimbursement is received.
- Providers and staff, including new hires, receive ongoing IPLARC education.

Illinois Hospitals Participating in IPLARC Initiative

Hospitals Live with IPLARC

Hospitals Not Yet Live with IPLARC
Seven Key Steps to Increase Access to IPLARC

1. Establish and test IPLARC billing codes.
2. Stock LARC in hospital pharmacy.
3. Modify IT systems for documentation.
4. Implement IPLARC best practice protocols.
5. Educate providers on counseling and IPLARC.
6. Educate patients on all contraceptive options.
7. Communicate launch of IPLARC availability to providers.

Making Change Happen

- Hospitals participating in IPLARC cover 40 percent of births in Illinois.
- 100 percent of participating Wave 1 hospitals were offering IPLARC by August 2019.
- Documentation of comprehensive contraception counseling, including IPLARC, during prenatal care increased from 20 percent to 70 percent from baseline to August 2019.

Percent of Patients at Participating Hospitals Receiving Comprehensive Contraception Counseling, Including IPLARC, April 2018-August 2019

The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) is a statewide network of perinatal clinicians, nurses, hospitals, patients, public health leaders, and policymakers that aims to improve outcomes for mothers and babies across Illinois.


Want to Get Involved?

Contact us to learn more about how you can support the next generation of healthier moms and babies. To learn more, visit us at ILPQC.org.