



Dear Hospital Leader:

In 2010, The Joint Commission established a new perinatal care core measure set that includes PC-03, the initiation of antenatal steroids. Antenatal Corticosteroid Treatment (ACT), when given at the appropriate time, reduces neonatal morbidity and mortality. Optimal timing of the treatment is important, and often not achieved. The March of Dimes Big 5 State Perinatal Collaborative, (comprised of perinatal leaders from CA, FL, IL, NY and TX) is recruiting hospitals to join a 5-state pilot program to help hospitals work toward 100% administration of ACT to mothers who are candidates to receive antenatal steroids and deliver between 23-34 weeks gestation. A fact sheet is attached for more information.

The March of Dimes Big 5 State Perinatal Collaborative will be working collaboratively within and across the Big 5 States with hospital champions and the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) on this project. A variety of resources will be provided to support the project, including an ACT change bundle, grand rounds, monthly training webinars and a secure data collection portal, all provided at no cost to participating hospitals. In Illinois, we are seeking to recruit 5-10 hospitals who are Level II, II+ or III facilities and which represent the state's geographic diversity as well as diversity in payer mix.

To get involved, attached is an Application Form, which can also be accessed at: <http://ilpqc.org/Antenatal-Corticosteroids>. Please read the application requirements and review the contract and data collection form, which is included in the application packet, carefully. Chart abstracted data will be submitted to a third party company, Health Catalyst, who will support the collaborative in collecting and warehousing the data via a secure web-based portal. If your hospital requires a Business Associate Agreement (BAA), please include a copy with your application. The submission deadline for this competitive application is **July 24, 2015**. Applicants must submit both an electronic and original hardcopy of their application to:

Madiha Qureshi, MPH
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Illinois Chapter
111 W. Jackson Blvd., Ste.1650
Chicago, IL 60604
MQureshi@marchofdimes.org

We are happy to offer technical support during the application process. Please contact Madiha Qureshi at MQureshi@marchofdimes.org or 312-596-4715 for more information. Upon review of hospital applications, March of Dimes may reach out to applicants for a more detailed conversation. Invitations to participate in the Big 5 Initiative will be extended by March of Dimes by September 4, 2015.

We hope your hospital will consider applying to participate in this exciting initiative to improve the delivery of ACT to all mothers who qualify, helping to give babies the healthiest possible start in life!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madiha Qureshi, MPH
March of Dimes Illinois Chapter

Ann Borders, MD, MSc, MPH
Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative