

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 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.



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.

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 Gynecologists (ACOG), support the expansion of access to LARCs immediately after delivery.

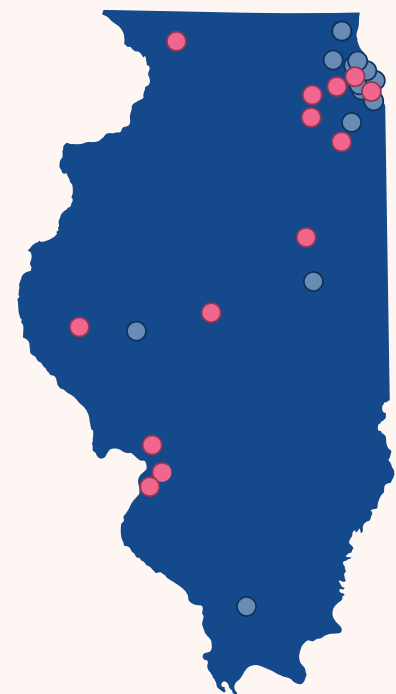
IPLARC Initiative: Increasing Availability of Immediate Postpartum LARC

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 over 120 clinicians and implementation efforts through on-site hospital key players meetings.

23 hospitals across the state have worked to implement systems and clinical culture changes to ensure:

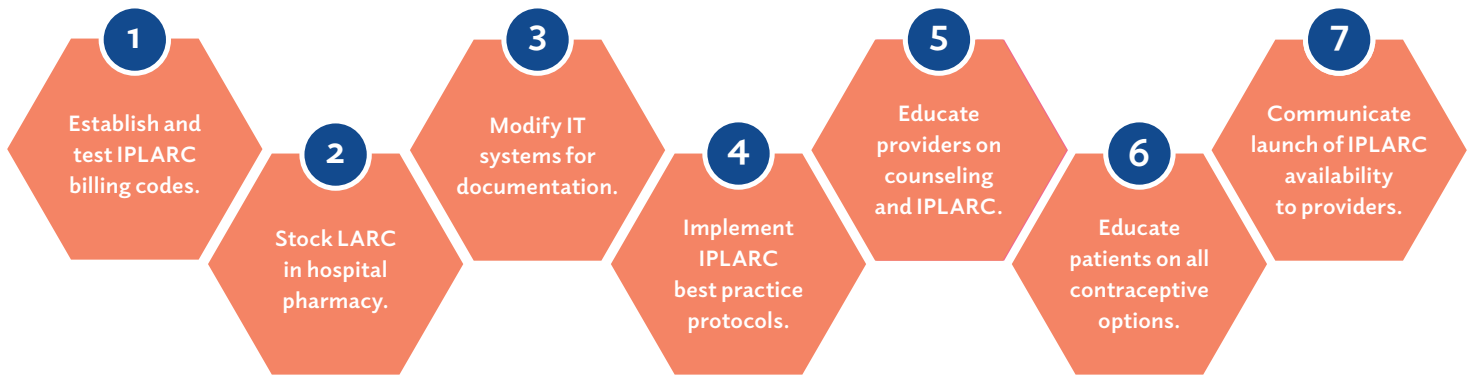
- ▶ Patients receive comprehensive contraceptive counseling, including the option of IPLARC, prenatally and during the delivery admission.
- ▶ Patients who desire and are eligible for IPLARC receive it.
- ▶ Billing is facilitated and reimbursement is received.
- ▶ Providers and staff, including new hires,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

Illinois Hospitals Participating in IPLARC Initiative



- IPLARC Wave 1 Hospitals
- IPLARC Wave 2 Hospitals

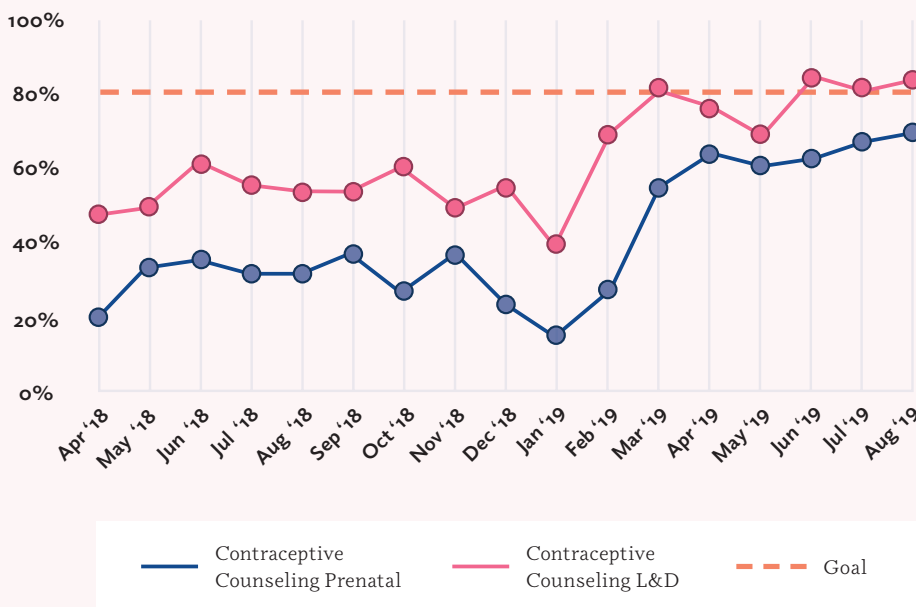
Seven Key Steps to Increase Access to IPLARC



Making Change Happen

- ▶ Hospitals participating in IPLARC cover over **40 percent** of births in Illinois.
- ▶ **91 percent** of participating hospitals were offering IPLARC within 16 months of initiative start.
- ▶ 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.

Thank you to our sponsors: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Human Services, J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health.

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.

