

PROMOTING SAFE AND RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE ACROSS ILLINOIS

Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award Designation

At the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), we are committed to improving maternal and newborn care and outcomes and reducing disparities to help make Illinois the best place to give birth and be born for all mothers and their families. ILPQC launched the Promoting Vaginal Birth Initiative and Birth Equity Initiative with birthing hospitals across Illinois between 2020 and 2024. Hospitals are now working on sustaining the important improvements in care achieved in these initiatives.



The Award

The Illinois 2025 Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award Designation Program recognizes birthing hospitals focused on quality improvement in maternity care and sustaining the Promoting Vaginal Birth and Birth Equity Initiatives, including: ILPQC participation, engaging patient and community partners to improve care, maintaining NTSV cesarean rates below goal and reducing NTSV cesarean disparities.

Support for the Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Designation Program, including hospital mini-grants and monetary awards, is provided by BCBSIL Special Beginnings® program

Hospitals achieving the award designation criteria will receive:

- ▶ Statewide recognition of your birthing hospital quality excellence.
- ▶ \$10,000 to \$20,000 toward your OB department's quality improvement efforts. **Illinois Birthing Quality Excellence Award will be presented for achieving all designation criteria.**

Hospitals meeting the majority of the criteria can receive an Illinois Birth Quality Award.

Learn More



**The Illinois 2025
Birthing Hospital
Quality Excellence
Award Designation
Program**

Criteria for the Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award

Designation criteria achieved by September 30, 2025:

Actively participating with ILPQC

- ☐ **Attend ILPQC webinars (Jan-Sep 2025)**
At least one member of your QI team should attend five or more
- ☐ **Attend ILPQC in-person meetings twice per year**
Provider AND nurse champion at ILPQC face-to-face meeting + annual conference
- ☐ **Submit monthly PVB/BE sustainability data (Jan-Sep 2025)**
- ☐ **Share quality improvement data feedback with clinical staff regularly**
- ☐ **Optimize collection of self-reported race, ethnicity and language data**
- ☐ **Create a plan to review data and identify and take action on NTSV cesarean disparities**
By race, ethnicity and insurance status
- ☐ **Participate in QI support with ILPQC**
One-to-one QI support call, QI topic call or QI office hours

Educating clinical teams and new hires

- ☐ **Educating on respectful care and reducing stigma and bias**
Covering topics such as active listening, shared decision making, trauma-informed care and reducing stigma and bias

Engaging patients and the community

- ☐ **Engage a patient partner in the quality improvement team**
- ☐ **Host two or more Respectful Care Breakfasts per year**
- ☐ **Coordinate QI efforts to share resources**
With outpatient prenatal clinics, federally qualified health centers and other community health clinics
- ☐ **Build relationships**
With community-based doulas, home visiting programs and other community resources
- ☐ **Review labor and delivery policies**
To promote a doula-friendly unit culture
- ☐ **Implement a Patient-Reported Experience Measure (PREM) Survey**
For 10% or more deliveries per month (or at least 15 deliveries per month)
- ☐ **Submit Birth Equity and Promoting Vaginal Birth Sustainability Plans**

Achieving aims and reducing disparities

- ☐ **NTSV cesarean rate \leq 23.6%**
- ☐ **Stratified NTSV cesarean rate \leq 25% for all groups (race, ethnicity, insurance status)**
- ☐ **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) referrals**
Link \geq 70% of patients screening positive to community resources

Timeline for Birthing Hospitals Quality Excellence Designation Program

JANUARY 2025

- ▶ ILPQC Birth Quality Excellence Designation launch webinar

FEBRUARY 2025

- ▶ Email sent to hospital leadership
- ▶ Data form live
- ▶ Mini-grant application opened

MARCH 2025

- ▶ Birth Equity sustainability/ Birth Quality Designation call
- ▶ Mini-grant application deadline: April 1, 2025

APRIL-MAY 2025

- ▶ Mini-grant funds distributed to hospitals

SUMMER 2025

- ▶ Implementation of mini-grant strategies
- ▶ QI support from ILPQC

SEPTEMBER 2025

- ▶ All 2025 data due
- ▶ Birth Quality Designation application due

NOVEMBER 2025

- ▶ Announce 2025 Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award recipients at ILPQC Annual Conference

For more information contact
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