

# I'M SPEAKING/TeamBirth Newsletter

Welcome to the first installment of our newsletter for the I'M SPEAKING study/ TeamBirth Quality Improvement (QI) Initiative! Here, you'll find quarterly updates for all hospitals taking part in the TeamBirth QI Initiative.

## TeamBirth QI Initiative at Your Hospital

**TeamBirth** is an Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) QI initiative that uses a shared decision-making model developed by Ariadne Labs to promote effective communication, collaboration, and clinical care during childbirth. It has been found to improve *patient satisfaction* with OB care through better shared decision-making and improve *OB staff satisfaction* by improving communication and teamwork. It has been implemented across 18 states and over 170 hospitals. 22 hospitals across Illinois will be implementing TeamBirth from 2025-2027.



**TeamBirth  
Video**

**Want to learn more about TeamBirth?**



**TeamBirth/I'M  
SPEAKING  
Website**

October marks the start of the TeamBirth monthly webinars and coaching calls for Wave 1 hospitals. Wave 1 hospital teams kicked off TeamBirth Implementation with the first Learning Session on October 6 with Ariadne Labs, TeamBirth leads, and ILPQC. 34 participants attended the webinar! Over the next six months, the Wave 1 Hospital teams will participate in monthly learning sessions together and then have individual monthly coaching calls with TeamBirth and ILPQC, before going live with TeamBirth on their OB units in April 2026. After their Go Live date, each hospital will continue to have learning sessions and monthly coaching calls with TeamBirth and ILPQC for the next 6 months to support TeamBirth sustainability.

### TeamBirth Wave 1 Hospitals:

1. University of Chicago Medicine
2. Loyola MacNeal Hospital
3. Endeavor Health Evanston Hospital
4. Endeavor Health Elmhurst Hospital
5. Endeavor Health Edward Hospital
6. Rush Copley Medical Center
7. Mount Sinai Hospital
8. Memorial Hospital of Carbondale

### TeamBirth Wave 2 Hospitals:

1. Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital
2. Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital
3. Loyola University Medical Center
4. OSF St. Francis Medical Center
5. Riverside Medical Center
6. Ascension Saint Alexius Hospital
7. Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest

### TeamBirth Wave 3 Hospitals:

1. Endeavor Health Northwest Community Hospital
2. University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System
3. University of Chicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale
4. Endeavor Health Highland Park Hospital
5. John H Stroger Hospital
6. Northwestern Memorial Hospital
7. Rush University Medical

TeamBirth implementation calls for Wave 1 kicked off in October 2025 and **TeamBirth will Go Live in April 2026**

TeamBirth implementation calls for Wave 2 will kick off in April 2026 and **TeamBirth will Go Live in October 2026**

TeamBirth implementation calls for Wave 3 will kick off in October 2026, and **TeamBirth will Go Live in April 2027**

For questions regarding your TeamBirth Wave, please contact **Maria Villagomez** at ILPQC ([maria.villagomez@endeavorhealth.org](mailto:maria.villagomez@endeavorhealth.org)).



## What Is I'M SPEAKING?

I'M SPEAKING stands for **Im**proving **S**afety, **P**atient **E**xperience, and Equity through Shared Decision-making Huddles in Labor. The I'M SPEAKING study team is led by Drs. Ann Borders and Beth Plunkett (Co-Principal Investigators, Endeavor Health) and Dr. Emily White VanGompel (Director of Evaluation, University of Illinois Chicago) and is a partnership with ILPQC and Ariadne Labs. The I'M SPEAKING study aims to evaluate whether TeamBirth makes childbirth safer, more respectful, and more equitable by reducing racial disparities in birth experiences and outcomes. The I'M SPEAKING team is also studying TeamBirth implementation to learn and share best practices with other perinatal quality collaboratives. I'M SPEAKING is funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

**The I'M SPEAKING Evaluation Coordinators have been collecting Patient-reported Experience Measures (PREM) surveys at your hospital to support baseline data collection for your TeamBirth QI initiative.** The I'M SPEAKING team will collect baseline PREM Surveys until your hospital starts TeamBirth Implementation. After your hospital's Kicks-Off TeamBirth, the I'M SPEAKING team will return to continue to collect PREM surveys to track patient experiences at your hospital, along with your hospital's experience with TeamBirth implementation and sustainability.

Your hospital will continue to invite all postpartum patients to complete PREM surveys. **On days that the I'M SPEAKING team visits your hospital, the Evaluation Coordinators will invite post-partum patients to take the PREM survey if they are:**

1. 18 years or older and
2. English- or Spanish-speaking and
3. Had a live birth and
4. Labored (no scheduled Cesarean births)

## I'M SPEAKING PREM Survey Updates

The data from the PREM surveys will support each hospital's TeamBirth implementation and sustainability efforts and the analysis of the impact of TeamBirth in Illinois.

**I'M SPEAKING PREM Surveys  
April 2025 – September 2025  
Eligible Patients Invited N= 1401  
Number of Completed Surveys N= 1076,  
Response Rate = 76.8%**

## Meet the I'M SPEAKING Evaluation Coordinators

Evaluation Coordinators will be on-site at your hospital 0-4 times per month to help support your hospital's PREM survey collection. **Learn more about our coordinators, TeamBirth and I'M SPEAKING on our website!**



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