



Quest Physician Update

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Transforming Healthcare - Together.

Dear Colleagues,

Organizations in Illinois are pulling together to make maternity care better and safer for babies and moms.

There are impressive efforts underway in the state to address the unsafe practice of delivering babies before 39 weeks that has become common in Illinois and across the country over the past 15 years. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommends against the practice because of its potential harm and lack of benefit for babies or moms. The practice is credited for driving the U.S. C-section rate up to its current record level of 34 percent. The World Health Organization finds the best outcomes appear when C-section rates are around 5 to 10 percent.

Quality Quest's Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms project, the March of Dimes 'Big 5' initiative, the Illinois Department of Health, the Midwest Business Group on Health and other organizations are aligning efforts to bring an end to elective early term deliveries. A statewide Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms steering committee is being formed that will be charged with overseeing a series of workgroups that will focus on the key changes that are needed to accomplish this.

Key changes that are needed include:

- Increasing parents' knowledge of best practice
- Working to ensure EVERY hospital providing maternity care has an elective early term delivery policy that aligns with best-practice standards AND a process for tracking compliance
- Maternity payment reform to remove incentives that discourage best practice
- Advocating for malpractice relief for clinicians and hospitals following best practices
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our data infrastructure
- Holding ourselves accountable as a state, as clinicians, and as hospitals by publicly reporting results

Illinois is working together because "healthy babies are worth the wait". Help us out by promoting our new Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms Facebook group. Thank you for all you do to make care safer and better. Together, we are transforming healthcare.

Respectfully,

