



March 2, 2018

Dear Clinical Partner:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is excited to announce the launch of the *TexasAIM* initiative to improve maternal mortality and morbidity outcomes. Through our partnership with the Alliance for the Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), we are offering the organized medical staff and administrative leadership of interested hospitals the opportunity to participate in a statewide effort to implement AIM Maternal Safety Bundles.

AIM is a national program that helps hospitals, medical staff, and communities use evidence-based strategies to improve maternal safety and health care quality through Maternal Safety Bundles. Each bundle focuses on a specific maternal health and safety topic. *TexasAIM* will first work on the Obstetric Hemorrhage Bundle, followed by the Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder Bundle and the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle. AIM works with state teams and health systems to provide tools, resources, and support to achieve success.

Any Texas birthing hospital system can join the growing and engaged *TexasAIM* community. DSHS is here to provide help and can connect you to the Patient Safety Bundles, AIM tools, and the AIM data portal. DSHS continues to recognize that the practice of medicine is the purview of physicians, and enrollment and participation in AIM is voluntary with no deadline to join. AIM bundles will present medical and operational leadership and their staff with evidence-based systems of care that they can use to enhance care that will be of benefit to mothers and babies. For hospitals already implementing maternal safety protocols, *TexasAIM* provides an opportunity to enhance current work through learning collaboratives and data collection.

As hospitals work towards Maternal Levels of Care Designation, AIM Maternal Safety Bundles are an opportunity to meet designation requirements, such as:

- the implementation of a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program; and
- written guidelines or protocols related to specific conditions that place the pregnant or postpartum patient at risk for morbidity and/or mortality.

Serving as the lead coordinating body, DSHS has convened state agencies, professional organizations, physicians, and other key stakeholders to guide and facilitate the implementation of the AIM Maternal Safety Bundles. The AIM Implementation Advisory Workgroup includes representatives of the Maternal

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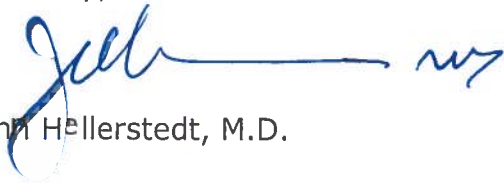
Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, the Perinatal Advisory Committee, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives, the Texas Hospital Association, the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies, the Texas Nursing Association, and other key partners.

As next steps, DSHS will be hosting an informational webinar on March 28, 2018, and sending a Maternal Safety Needs Assessment Survey to birthing hospitals in Texas. This webinar will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of *TexasAIM* and the survey will help physicians, hospitals, and other members of the team gauge readiness on bundle implementation.

If you are interested in implementing AIM Maternal Safety Bundles and participating in the webinar, email [TexasAIM@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:TexasAIM@dshs.texas.gov).

Thank you for your continued partnership and efforts to improve the health of our state's mothers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. Ellerstedt", followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

John H. Ellerstedt, M.D.