



## Overview

Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) are networks of teams working to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies across prenatal, labor/birth, newborn, and postpartum services. They identify processes that need to be improved and quickly adopt best practices to achieve collective aims.

The Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) ([www.whamglobal.org/papqc](http://www.whamglobal.org/papqc)) was launched in April 2019, with a focus on reducing [maternal mortality](#) and improving care for [pregnant and postpartum women](#) and [newborns affected by opioids](#). The PA PQC is also launching an initiative to improve maternal depression screening and follow-up and reduce racial disparities.

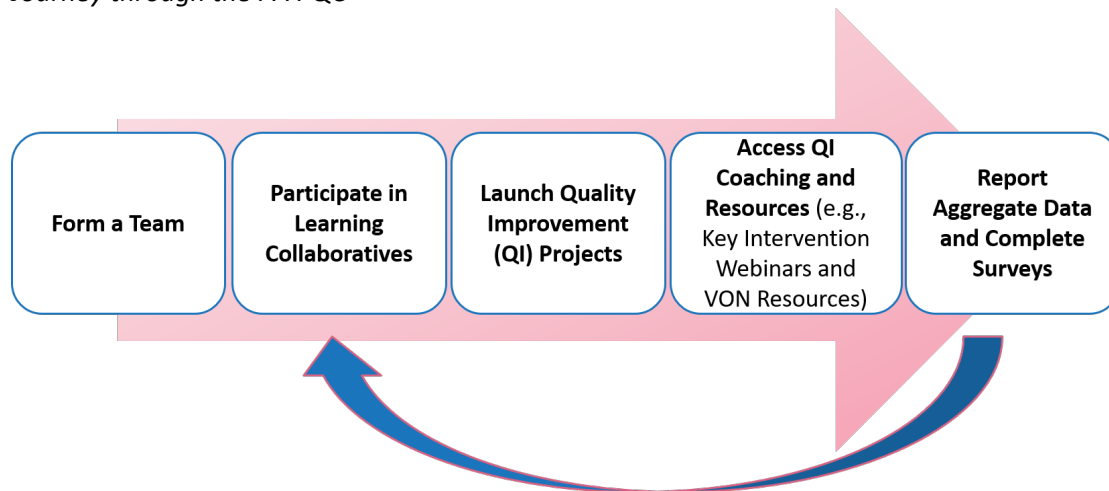
Over 140 people from all the regions of the Commonwealth worked together to standup the PA PQC through an [Advisory Group and nine work groups](#). They represented State agencies, providers, health system associations, provider associations, health plans, community-based organizations, researchers, foundations, quality improvement collaboratives, and advocates. The work groups identified the drivers, key interventions, and quality metrics to move the needle on the collective aims of the PA PQC, which are listed below. The Jewish Healthcare Foundation and its operating arm, the Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal), are helping to administer the work of the PA PQC, which is being led by these stakeholders. It is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and by the Henry L. Hillman Foundation.

The PA PQC now includes 65 birth sites and NICUs, representing 87% of live births in Pennsylvania, and 14 commercial and Medicaid health plans across the Commonwealth. Since April, the PA PQC sites have collectively launched 105 quality improvements (QI) projects. 35 sites are working on SUD QI projects; 28 sites are working on NAS QI projects; 3 sites are working on QI projects to increase access to immediate postpartum LARC; and 39 sites are working on maternal mortality QI projects (e.g., severe hypertension or hemorrhage).

The PA PQC coordinates with DOH's, DHS', and DDAP's Multi-Disciplinary Workgroup on Infants with Substance Exposure (MDWISE) to disseminate guidelines (e.g., Plans of Safe Care). It also serves as an action arm of PA DOH's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC).

The perinatal care teams from the PA PQC sites form a team, participate in learning sessions, launch quality improvement projects, access quality improvement coaching and resources, and report aggregate data to drive improvement around the three foci of the PA PQC: maternal mortality, maternal OUD, and NAS. These steps repeat when the teams participate in the next learning session.

## Journey through the PA PQC



During [Learning Sessions](#), PA PQC teams from birth sites/NICUs and health plans:

- (1) report out on their quality improvement progress to inform the collective work of the group;
- (2) gain information about how to implement a PA PQC Key Intervention via content experts and their peers; and
- (3) identify next steps to advance their quality improvement work in-between the quarterly, in-person sessions.

Through [Quality Improvement Coaching](#), the PA PQC teams work one-on-one with a coach who guides their teams in developing and implementing quality improvement plans for the Key Interventions.

Through the [Vermont Oxford Network \(VON\)](#), the PA PQC teams have the ability to access the VON NAS Universal Training Program. This training program includes [online modules](#), virtual site visits, and toolkits. The PA PQC teams also have the ability to participate in the [VON Day Quality Audits for NAS](#). During the quality audits, the sites submit baseline and follow-up data related to NAS treatment processes and outcomes. After the audits, they receive data reports from VON for feedback on their performance.

During [Key Intervention Webinars](#), the PA PQC teams review a dashboard with data from the PA PQC Surveys and Data Portal that pertains to a PQC Key Intervention. The teams then learn how to implement that Key Intervention from a content expert.

The web-based [PA PQC Data Portal](#) allows the PA PQC sites to enter aggregate numerators and denominators for the PA PQC “required” and “optional, prioritized” quality measures for the three foci of the PQC ([maternal mortality](#), [NAS](#), and [maternal OUD](#)). The Tableau-based [PA PQC Data Dashboard](#) trends the information over time and provides comparisons by region, NICU-level, number of live births, and rural/urban settings.

The [PA PQC Surveys](#) collect information about the PA PQC sites’ structures and processes related to maternal mortality, maternal OUD, and NAS. The PA PQC site’s quality improvement coach sends the PA PQC sites data visuals that compare the PA PQC site’s/system’s progress to the PA PQC average to track progress and ignite new quality improvement cycles.

## *To Join the PA PQC, [Click Here](#)*

The roles of birth sites, NICUs, community-based organizations, and health plans are listed below. Community-based organizations and other stakeholders may also participate in the PA PQC to collaborate with the PA PQC providers on their quality improvement projects and help gather the information that is needed to report the aggregate data for the PA PQC metrics.

Participating in the PA PQC will help your birth site/NICU:

- Adopt best practices and formalize quality improvement initiatives for reducing maternal mortality and improving perinatal care for women with OUD and Opioid-Exposed Newborns
- Improve performance on quality metrics that are typically included in value-based payment models for perinatal care
- Access the [VON NAS Universal Training Program and the VON Day Audits](#) to help your organization become a VON Center of Excellence for NAS
- Highlight the successes and results of the best practices at your organization

### Roles of Birth Sites and NICUs in the PA PQC

- Form a multi-disciplinary quality improvement team with maternity and neonatal providers and staff at your site and outpatient clinics (see team roles below)
- Participate in in-person, one-day Learning Collaborative sessions with continuing education credits (four sessions per year)
- Launch Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) quality improvement cycles in-between the Learning Collaborative sessions, work with community partners on the PDSA cycles, and share what is working well at subsequent sessions to inform the collective work of the group
- Attend virtual sessions to support your quality improvement projects
- Access the Vermont Oxford Network's (VON) NAS Universal Training Program and the VON Day Audits to help your organization become a Center of Excellence for Education and Training for Infants and Families Impacted by NAS
- Report your aggregate data through the online PA PQC Data Portal and Dashboard on a monthly basis, which will trend your outcomes over time and compare it to the outcomes of other provider teams in the PA PQC

### Roles of Health Plans in the PA PQC

- Form a multi-disciplinary quality improvement team at your health plan
- Participate in the Learning Collaborative sessions and virtual sessions
- Engage related contracted resources and care management teams in the PA PQC activities to assist PA PQC providers in your network on quality improvement projects
- Provide feedback to providers on core metrics that require claims data

### Roles of Community-Based Organizations in the PA PQC

- Work with the PA PQC sites on their quality improvement projects that pertain to connecting patients to community-based services and external treatment programs
- Serve as potential speakers at Learning Collaborative sessions to help the PA PQC sites coordinate care with community-based organizations and provide comprehensive services
- Participate in the Learning Collaborative sessions and virtual sessions

## PA PQC Team Roles at Birth Sites/NICUs

### Provider Champion for the Maternal Health Team

- Leads the maternal mortality and OUD-related quality improvement projects within the organization, and engages peers<sup>1</sup>

### Provider Champion for the Neonatal or Pediatric Team

- Leads the NAS/OEN-related quality improvement projects within the organization, and engages peers<sup>1</sup>

### Administrative Champion

- Provides project management assistance for the quality improvement projects and learning activities
- Coordinates efforts to complete the PA PQC onboarding process
- Coordinates efforts to complete PA PQC surveys with the team about structural processes for maternal mortality, OUD, and NAS (the surveys are available here: <https://www.whamglobal.org/papqc/pa-pqc-data>)
- Connects the quality improvement teams to organizational quality/safety leaders and staff
- Serves as the VON Champion<sup>2</sup> for the VON NAS Universal Training Program **OR** identifies another team member to be the VON Champion (e.g., a lead role or administrator in the NICU) (this VON Champion role only applies if the site elects to participate in the VON NAS Universal Training Program)

### Data Champion

- Collects, aggregates, and reports data for the PA PQC metrics (the aggregate data is reported through the [PA PQC online dashboard](#))
- Serves as the VON Day Data Collector<sup>3</sup> **OR** identifies another team member to be the VON Day Data Collector (e.g., a staff in the NICU with data and clinical experience) (this VON Day Data Collector role only applies if the site elects to participate in the VON Day Audits for NAS)
- Helps to gather complete medical records when requested by the PA DOH Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)

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<sup>1</sup> Leading these quality improvement projects may entail the following: working with the organizational quality improvement team to assess opportunities for improvement, setting improvement goals, developing improvement plans (including interventions, roles and timeline), overseeing implementation of interventions, reviewing progress, amending improvement plans as necessary, reporting results to organizational leaders and stakeholders, and preparing quality improvement project updates (using the [Quality Improvement Project Update Template](#)) for dissemination at the Learning Collaborative sessions and virtual sessions.

<sup>2</sup> The **VON Champion** identifies users to be enrolled, becomes a “super-user” of the VON NAS Universal Training Program, motivates and keeps users engaged, and monitors ongoing progress.

<sup>3</sup> The **VON Day Data Collector** is the key liaison to VON for the VON Day Quality Audit. All communications related to the VON Day Audit data collection process will be directed to the VON Day Data Collector. The VON Day Data Collector will help determine how cases will be identified at your site. The VON Day Data Collector will perform the actual data collection and the submission of this data to VON via a web based data entry system. He/she must have access to clinical logs and charts, as well as the clinical skills and capacity to review the charts and obtain the relevant data.

### Multi-Disciplinary Team for Quality Improvement and Learning Activities

- Participates in the quality improvement projects
- Receives invitations to the PA PQC Learning Collaboratives and virtual sessions
- Accesses the VON NAS Universal Training Program (this only applies if the site elects to participate in the VON NAS Universal Training Program) and the PA PQC resources

### Community-Based Organizations Identified by the Provider Team

- Works with the PA PQC provider team to impact the prenatal and postpartum metrics, and connect patients to appropriate services

*To view PA PQC FAQs, [Click Here](#)*

### PA PQC Birth Hospitals and NICUs

AHN – Forbes Hospital

AHN – Jefferson Hospital

AHN – Saint Vincent Hospital

AHN – West Penn Hospital

Commonwealth Health – Moses Taylor Hospital

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center

Crozer-Keystone Health System - Crozer-Chester Medical Center

Crozer-Keystone Health System - Delaware County Memorial Hospital

Doylestown Hospital

Einstein Medical Center Montgomery

Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia

Evangelical Community Hospital

Geisinger – Bloomsburg Hospital

Geisinger – Community Medical Center

Geisinger – Holy Spirit Hospital

Geisinger – Lewistown Hospital

Geisinger – Medical Center, Danville

Geisinger – Wyoming Valley Hospital

Guthrie – Robert Packer Hospital Birthing Center

Holy Redeemer Hospital

Jefferson Health – Abington Hospital

Jefferson Health – Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Lehigh Valley Health Network – Cedar Crest

Lehigh Valley Health Network – Muhlenberg

Lehigh Valley Health Network – Pocono

Lehigh Valley Health Network - Schuylkill

Main Line Health – Bryn Mawr Hospital

Main Line Health – Lankenau Medical Center

Main Line Health – Paoli Hospital

Main Line Health – Riddle Hospital

Mount Nittany Health System - Mount Nittany Medical Center

Penn Medicine – Chester County Hospital

Penn Medicine – Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Penn Medicine – Lancaster General/Women and Babies

Penn Medicine – Pennsylvania Hospital  
Penn State Health: Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Children’s Hospital  
Punxsutawney Area Hospital  
St. Clair Hospital  
St. Luke’s University Health Network – Allentown  
St. Luke’s University Health Network – Bethlehem  
St. Luke’s University Health Network – Anderson  
Temple Health – Temple University Hospital  
Tower Health Medical Group - Reading Hospital  
UPMC – Altoona  
UPMC – Charles Cole  
UPMC – Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh  
UPMC – Hamot  
UPMC – Horizon  
UPMC – Magee Womens Hospital  
UPMC – Northwest  
UPMC – Pinnacle Carlisle  
UPMC – Pinnacle Hanover  
UPMC – Pinnacle Harrisburg  
UPMC – Pinnacle Lititz  
UPMC – Pinnacle Memorial in York  
UPMC Susquehanna Soldiers + Sailors  
UPMC Susquehanna Williamsport  
Washington Health System  
Wayne Memorial Hospital  
WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital  
WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital  
WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital  
WellSpan Summit Health Chambersburg Hospital  
WellSpan Summit Health Waynesboro Hospital  
WellSpan York Hospital

## PA PQC Health Plans

Aetna Better Health  
AmeriHealth Caritas PA  
Capital Blue Cross  
Gateway Health  
Geisinger Health Plan  
Health Partners Plans  
Highmark, Inc.  
Independence Blue Cross  
Keystone First PA  
United Healthcare  
UPMC Health Plan  
UPMC For You  
Community Behavioral Health  
Community Behavioral Health Organization