Arizona AIM Collaborative

Overview
The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has teamed up with the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA), the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), the Arizona Perinatal Trust, the March of Dimes – Arizona Chapter, and key stakeholders state-wide to create the Arizona AIM Collaborative. AzHHA is leading the Arizona AIM Collaborative to help birthing facilities in Arizona implement evidence-based maternal safety bundles, starting with the AIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle.

Background
The ADHS Bureau of Women's and Children's Health, Arizona's Title V Maternal and Child Health Program, in partnership with the Arizona Perinatal Trust and the March of Dimes – Arizona Chapter began a collaborative process to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in Arizona in 2018. Some of the most notable actions to-date include the development of the Arizona Maternal Mortality Action Plan as part of the Governor's Goal Council to establish five goals to reduce maternal mortality in Arizona in five years. ADHS is currently implementing the action plan, which includes the ongoing convening of the Arizona Maternal Health Task Force, a group that is comprised of multidisciplinary professionals across the state with a common goal of improving maternal health outcomes for Arizona women and families.

Additionally, as a result of the task force initiatives, Arizona joined the national movement to implement AIM Maternal Safety Bundles in Arizona. ADHS is teaming with AzHHA to facilitate this implementation given their history supporting Arizona hospital and healthcare partners to collectively build better healthcare and health for Arizonans through quality improvement and policy efforts.

About AIM
AIM is a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative. Based on proven safety and quality implementation strategies, AIM works to reduce preventable maternal mortality and severe morbidity across the United States by aligning national, state, and hospital level quality improvement efforts. These efforts primarily include the implementation of AIM Maternal Safety Bundles, which are collections of evidence-based practices for improving maternal care and outcomes. Experts in the field have vetted these practices to ensure their effectiveness.

Each Maternal Safety Bundle focuses on a specific maternal health and safety topic. AIM has developed six core maternal safety bundles and nine supporting or additional maternal safety bundles. Arizona AIM will work on the Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy bundle first.
In 2019, there were 76,604 delivery hospitalizations in reporting Arizona birth hospitals. Of those delivery hospitalizations, 3.4% (n = 2,595) had a severe hypertensive disorder of pregnancy. Among delivery hospitalizations with a Severe Maternal Morbidity, 22.4% (n = 246) had a severe hypertensive disorder of pregnancy. Women with a severe hypertensive disorder of pregnancy had a rate of Severe Maternal Morbidity of 948.0 events per 10,000 delivery hospitalizations, compared to a rate of Severe Maternal Morbidity of 115.3 among women without a severe hypertensive disorder of pregnancy.

Given this context, Arizona birthing facilities’ participation in the Arizona AIM Collaborative is imperative.

What is the Arizona AIM Collaborative trying to achieve?
The Arizona AIM Collaborative is aiming to reduce the rate of severe maternal morbidity associated with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy by 20% in participating hospitals over an 18-month to two-year implementation period. Understanding that initial outcomes and processes across facilities will vary, the goals outlined below are considered a collective aim for this ongoing and iterative quality improvement process.

Goal 1. Reduce time to treatment
80% of women with two consecutive blood pressures of 160 systolic or 110 diastolic are treated within 60 minutes

Goal 2. Improve postpartum patient education
80% of women receive pre-eclampsia education at discharge

Goal 3. Improve postpartum patient follow-up
80% of women have a follow-up appointment scheduled within 10 days prior to hospital discharge

Goal 4. Improve provider and RN debrief time to treatment
At least 50% of cases of women with confirmed severe maternal hypertension without treatment within 60 minutes have RN/provider debrief

What is required of participating healthcare facilities?
Any Arizona birthing facility can join the growing and engaged Arizona AIM Collaborative. There is no cost to join participation is voluntary. Neither ADHS nor the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) requires participation for facility licensure or certification. Facilities that join the Arizona AIM Collaborative will be asked to:

- Identify an AIM Lead for your healthcare facility (e.g., Director of Maternal and Infant Care)
- Participate in the Arizona AIM Collaborative kickoff meeting (estimated for February 2021).
- Receiving technical assistance to implement tools and processes to help Arizona achieve the goals stated above.
- Join monthly collaborative calls to hear about new resources and share lessons learned.
- Submit monthly data related to outcome, process, and structure measures. All reported data will be shared in a deidentified manner, but participating facilities will have the opportunity to learn how they compare to other facilities in our state.
What types of support will participating facilities receive?
Facilities participating in the Arizona AIM Collaborative will have access to an array of resources, including:

- Educational events
- Facilitated learning
- Quality improvement tools
- Communications materials
- Networking opportunities
- Peer-to-peer mentoring
- Technical assistance and support
- Access to experts in maternal health and safety and in quality improvement
- Access to the AIM Data Portal to track progress in implementing the AIM Maternal Safety Bundles

How is participating in the Arizona AIM Collaborative different than being certified by the Arizona Perinatal Trust?
The Arizona Perinatal Trust is dedicated to improving the health of Arizona's mothers and babies and is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. The Trust's Voluntary Certification Program is a quality improvement process that includes matching hospital capabilities and capacity to established guidelines through a self-assessment process and a site visit by a team of peer professionals. While this is critical to achieving risk appropriate care for Arizona mothers and babies, the Arizona AIM Collaborative provides distinct support to birthing facilities in implementing evidence-based safety bundles to improve maternal health during and after pregnancy.

What are some key points to help facility leadership join the Arizona AIM Collaborative?
The following bullets include some key points or statements that can be used to discuss joining this collaborative with facility leadership:

- In 2019, among Arizona delivery hospitalizations with a Severe Maternal Morbidity (e.g. stroke, cardiac arrest), one in five women had a severe hypertensive disorder of pregnancy.
- The Arizona AIM Collaborative provides pre-developed materials and tools specifically designed for birthing centers to implement quality improvement strategies related to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.
- Participation in the Arizona AIM Collaborative is voluntary and free, including ongoing technical assistance from AzHHA staff.
- The Arizona AIM Collaborative will share deidentified data with participating facilities to see their improvements and how they compare to other birthing facilities of similar levels.
- Participating in the Arizona AIM Collaborative is something that can be used for marketing to assure that current and future patients will receive safe and high-quality maternity care within the participating facility.

How can my healthcare facility join the Arizona AIM Collaborative?
For more information about the Arizona AIM Collaborative, or to learn how to join, contact AzHHA's Director of Care Improvement: Vicki Buchda, vbuchda@azhha.org or 602-445-4311.