

# The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

## District XII Florida

February 5, 2014

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

For over 30 years, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has recommended that obstetric providers not induce labor or perform cesarean sections before 39 weeks gestation without a medical reason. Early elective deliveries (EED) have been shown to increase harm to infants, increase costs for medical systems, and worsen medical outcomes. The Joint Commission, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and various other health and safety organizations are now using the rate of elective deliveries before 39 weeks of gestation as an indicator of quality of care.

The March of Dimes, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Florida Hospital Association, Florida Department of Health and District XII Florida of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have joined together since 2010 in a collaborative effort with a goal of reducing the incidence of non-medically indicated deliveries before 39 weeks. We in Florida have been partially successful in reaching optimal rates, but further efforts are needed. Collectively, we would like to publicly recognize those Florida hospitals that have reached national goals. Hospitals meeting the criteria outlined in the attached March of Dimes checklist are eligible to receive a special recognition banner from District XII FL and the March of Dimes that highlights your hospital's commitment to improving the quality of care for moms and babies. The vinyl banner is approximately 6' by 3' and will display your hospital name as well as the ACOG and the March of Dimes logos. In addition, your hospital will be highlighted on the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative website as a banner hospital that has reached this high level of commitment.

In addition, we are asking all obstetric hospitals in Florida who have not adopted a formal program to pledge to implement formal policies and a specific program designed to reduce EED. Our collaborative team is ready to assist you in your efforts in several ways to help you pledge and reach that commitment. Banners will be awarded to those hospitals when the goal is realized. Signed pledges and completed checklists may be emailed to [fpqc@health.usf.edu](mailto:fpqc@health.usf.edu). Please direct questions to Dr. William Sappenfield, Director of USF's Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at [fpqc@health.usf.edu](mailto:fpqc@health.usf.edu), or Lori Reeves, March of Dimes Regional Manager of Quality Initiatives at [lreeves@marchofdimes.com](mailto:lreeves@marchofdimes.com).

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Cole Greves, MD

We are asking for your banner application and/or signed pledge by **March 3, 2014**. Soon after this, we plan to have a large press release to recognize all of the hospitals who receive the banners and those that have pledged. All those hospitals to qualify for the recognition banner by that date will be especially highlighted. ACOG District XII Florida is also pleased to sponsor banners for those hospitals. After that date, hospital reaching the goal can purchase the recognition banner.

Please do not let your hospital be left out! We look forward to recognizing your hospital for the efforts it has undertaken to reduce early elective deliveries.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Yelverton MD, FACOG  
Chair, ACOG District XII



Cari Crady  
State Director, March of Dimes Florida Chapter



John Curran, MD  
Executive Director, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative  
USF's Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies



Bruce Rueben  
President, Florida Hospital Association

# MARCH OF DIMES

## 39+ WEEKS RECOGNITION BANNER CHECKLIST

Hospital Name:

Hospital Address:

*Contact information for person completing the checklist:*

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

### POLICY AND PROCEDURES

YES

NO

1. (REQUIRED) Does the hospital have a written policy in place regarding non-medically indicated deliveries less than 39 weeks gestational age?



*Include a copy of the policy with this checklist*

2. (REQUIRED) Does the written policy clearly define medical indications for deliveries less than 39 weeks?



3. (OPTIONAL) Does the hospital have procedures in place to monitor the scheduling of cesarean sections and inductions of labor prior to 39 weeks gestational age?



*Include a copy of the procedures/protocol with this checklist*

### RATE

4. (REQUIRED) Does the hospital have a process to track and monitor the rate of non-medically indicated deliveries less than 39 weeks gestational age?



- a. (REQUIRED FOR HOSPITALS WITH 1,100 OR MORE BIRTHS PER YEAR) Is the hospital's rate of non-medically indicated deliveries less than 39 weeks gestational age below 5% (according to the PC-01 measure last reported to The Joint Commission)?



*Provide the rate:*

*Provide the date this measure was reported to The Joint Commission::*

- b. (REQUIRED FOR HOSPITALS WITH < 1,100 BIRTHS PER YEAR) Is the hospital's rate of non-medically indicated deliveries less than 39 weeks gestational age below 5% (rate must be from two consecutive, previous quarters)?

*Provide the rate:*

*Describe how the rate was calculated:*

<p>5. (OPTIONAL FOR HOSPITALS WITH &lt; 1,100 BIRTHS PER YEAR) Does the hospital submit its rate to a regulatory agency (e.g. The Joint Commission, The Leapfrog Group, etc.)?</p> <p><i>If so, include a copy showing rates for at least six months.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*(Continued on next page)*

*To be signed by hospital leadership:*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL MARCH OF DIMES CHAPTER**

Please tell us about the hospital's relationship with the local March of Dimes Chapter (check all that apply):

- The hospital has a staff member (or members) that serve on March of Dimes Committee.
- The hospital has a staff member (or members) chair a March of Dimes Committee or event.
- The hospital sponsors Signature Chef Auction.
- The hospital sponsors March for Babies.
- The hospital sponsors Nurse of the Year.
- The hospital uses March of Dimes consumer education materials.
- The hospital receives March of Dimes community grant funding. List project: \_\_\_\_\_
- The hospital receives March of Dimes research grant funding. List project: \_\_\_\_\_

Other relationship, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

I don't know

The hospital is NOT involved with the local March of Dimes chapter.

Would you like to be connected to the local March of Dimes chapter?  Yes  No



**Elimination of Non-Medically Indicated Deliveries before 39 Weeks Gestation**

**Hospital Pledge**

On this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year 201\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ affirms  
(Hospital Name)  
its commitment to implement policies and procedures aimed at eliminating non-medically indicated deliveries before 39 weeks gestation as well as measure and track our rate of these deliveries.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I commit to this goal.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not commit to this goal.

If not committing, please explain why. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This initiative will be championed by: (Please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Obstetrics Physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pediatric/Neonatal Physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Obstetric/Neonatal Nurse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Email

**Return to 39 Week Initiative via email [fpqc@health.usf.edu](mailto:fpqc@health.usf.edu)**