Your Hospital Logo Here

**All Postpartum Providers:**

We are pleased to announce that **your maternity hospital** is participating in the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative’s Postpartum Access and Continuity of Care (PACC) Initiative. Given rising maternal morbidity and mortality rates nationally and in Florida, and with a large percentage of these events occurring in the postpartum period, there is strong interest in improving how we care for postpartum women during this critical time period. The PACC initiative supports maternity hospitals to implement recommended standards of practice for postpartum care by offering and scheduling universal early postpartum visits for a post-birth health/safety check (within 2 weeks postpartum) to improve maternal health outcomes.

**Why schedule all women for an early postpartum visit within 2 weeks?**

* ACOG (Committee Opinion #736) recommends postpartum care include an additional early visit before the traditional six weeks. FPQC recommends this visit be scheduled within two weeks to improve our opportunity to better manage early postpartum complications such as elevated blood pressure, wound complications, infection, breastfeeding or mental/behavioral health concerns. It is easier to schedule this visit prior to hospital discharge and patients are more likely to attend when they have an already scheduled visit to return within two weeks for an early post birth health check.
* The obstetric provider and outpatient care team should facilitate all patients returning for a post-birth health check within two weeks of delivery. The early postpartum visit / post-birth health check should include: blood pressure check and other vital signs, wound or perineum check, mood check/ depression screening, any postpartum bleeding concerns, discussion of infant feeding and supports needed, check in on any medical complications hypertension and any needed follow up plans or linkage to specialty care, review of any social supports or community resources needed (i.e. WIC, home visiting programs, lactation support groups), discussion of benefits of pregnancy spacing with review of options for family planning and encourage inter-pregnancy intervals of ≥18 months.
* Emerging best practices are recommending early postpartum visits and referrals be scheduled prior to hospital discharge.

**What do I need to know?**

* FPQC has developed guidance to facilitate billing and reimbursement for an early postpartum visit within two weeks of delivery for all postpartum patients in addition to the traditional six-week postpartum visit.
* Please refer to the attached materials:
  + *Mortality Brief*
  + *ACOG Committee Opinion*
  + *Information regarding the process for documentation and billing for your office and where to find resources such as OB Providers Early Post-Birth Checklist, and patient handouts.*

**Partnership**

We know that lasting results cannot achieved without your active partnership. We will be collecting data as a part of this statewide initiative. We will track progress to increase the percentage of women with documented counseling and scheduling of an early postpartum visit prior to discharge and track the percentage of women receiving education prior to discharge on the benefits of early postpartum visit / post-birth health check, maternal early warning signs and who/when to call, and recommendations for pregnancy spacing.

By working together, we can improve maternal and newborn outcomes by improving access to postpartum care. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the PACC team.

All the best,

**Your Hospital Team Name**