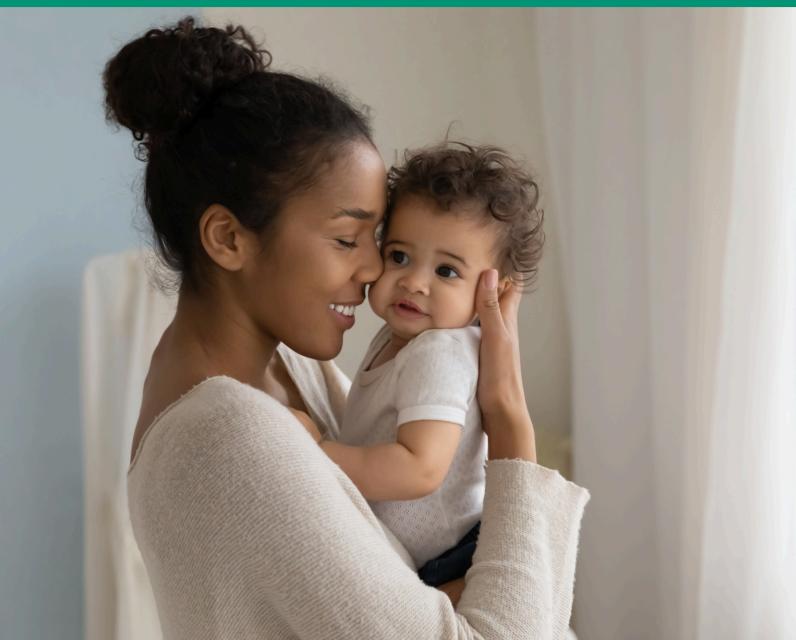


PREGNANCY-RELATED OPTIMAL MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION (PROMPT): A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE









Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative



The Florida Pregnancy-Related Optimal Management of HyPerTension (PROMPT) Initiative toolkit is intended to provide guidance to hospitals and obstetric providers in the development of individualized policies, protocols, practices, and materials to assure early identification and PROMPT treatment of severe hypertensive episodes. This toolkit is not to be construed as a standard of care; rather it is a collection of resources that may be adapted by local institutions to develop and implement their quality improvement initiative. The toolkit is based on the framework from the <u>Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM)</u> Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Patient Safety Bundle and will be updated as additional resources become available.

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Introduction

The PROMPT Toolkit is a dynamic document that includes up-to-date clinical, public health practice, scientific and patient safety recommendations. Information presented here should not be used as a standard of care. Rather, this is a collection of resources that can be adapted by local institutions to develop and implement their quality improvement initiative.

The overall goals of the PROMPT Initiative Toolkit are:

- 1. To aid the development of standardized approaches to severe hypertensive episodes that promote recommended screening, prevention, treatment, and education services for all pregnant and postpartum women with a special emphasis on high-risk women.
- 2. To guide and support hospitals in implementing a multidisciplinary team approach to improving the identification, clinical care, education and coordinated treatment plan and support on severe



hypertensive episodes for all pregnant and postpartum women with a special emphasis on high-risk women.

This toolkit will provide maternal and obstetric healthcare providers, staff at healthcare facilities and collaborating providers and services with the resources to locally develop their own PROMPT policies and protocols with a focus on safe practices and optimizing severe hypertensive episode care and outcomes.

Every US maternity hospital should develop and implement a process to provide respectful, timely, and risk-appropriate care and services for pregnancy and postpartum patients affected by a severe hypertensive event and arrange for the needed continuum of care. This may include early postpartum visit scheduling, providing a blood-pressure cuff and including education on how to use it and when to report changes to their provider, connection with community resources, and/or referrals to specialists.

Hospitals should also have interdisciplinary teams in place with necessary skill sets and identified roles in screening, care, education, and follow-up for patients with a severe hypertensive event. Administration, nursing, obstetric providers, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, social work/case managers, community providers, and others are all critical partners in the interdisciplinary team approach necessary for QI and the provision of quality care. These teams need to train together and practice together in order to maintain and gain new competencies. Because each hospital and care team has differing resource sets, it is important to develop individualized protocols and processes for each facility. A QI team composed of a core set of team members from the disciplines involved must review current policies and data, determine the priorities for improvement, and develop a work plan to address their needs. Patient and family involvement in this type of QI initiative is important and valuable. Incorporating Emergency Department team members is also key.

Background

The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) is launching its second initiative focused on Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy (HDP) with the October 23, 2024, kickoff of the Pregnancy-Related Optimal Management of Hypertension initiative—PROMPT. Our first Hypertension in Pregnancy (HIP) initiative in 2015 resulted in significant improvements in time to treatment for women with Severe Hypertension (SHTN). However, despite the improvements achieved during the initiative, rates for hypertension in pregnancy in Florida have been climbing since 2017.

In 2022, 19.4% of Florida delivery admissions had HDP, up from 13.1% in 2017. Data shows that HDP disproportionately affects non-Hispanic Black patients and is a leading cause of severe maternal morbidity. Hypertension is also a critical risk factor for short- and long-term severe maternal, fetal, and infant complications, and HDP are currently the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in Florida.

Initiative Foci

Standardization of care practices related to:

- Implementing a standard protocol, guideline, and/or process for identifying, managing, and treating patients with SHTN
- Conducting interprofessional and interdepartmental team-based drills and case reviews on patients with SHTN



- Providing comprehensive and coordinated post-event care to patients with HDP, including:
 - Scheduling blood pressure checks 3-7 days after discharge and making appropriate referrals
 - Educating patients about warning signs, when to seek care, how to measure and track blood pressure, and understanding preeclampsia
 - Conducting patient debriefs and trauma-informed support after severe events
- Providing training for clinicians on:
 - Severe Hypertension/Preeclampsia guidelines, processes, and/or procedures
 - Accurate blood pressure measurement and assessment
 - Respectful Maternity Care
- Implementing universal Emergency Department screening for current or recent pregnancy
- Integrating a patient advisor in your QI team

Initiative Goal

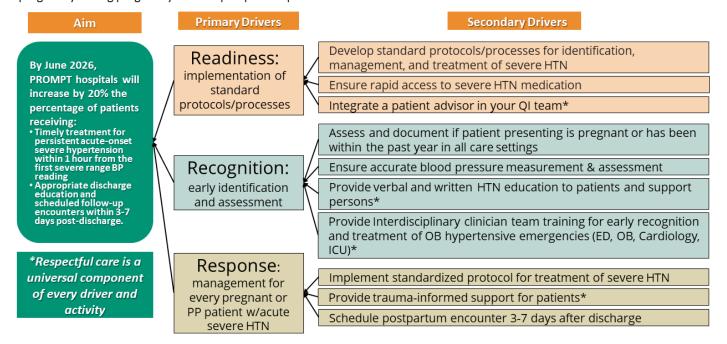
By June 2026, PROMPT hospitals will increase by 20% the percentage of patients receiving:

- 1. Timely treatment for persistent acute-onset severe hypertension within 1 hour from the first severe range BP reading
- 2. Appropriate discharge education and scheduled follow-up encounters within 3-7 days post-discharge. The initiative will embed respectful care within all components and activities. Baseline data will be established after the first quarter of hospital data is received by FPQC. Participating hospitals will use the PROMPT Initiative toolkit to implement the needed change package in their hospital.

Key Driver Diagram

PROMPT: Pregnancy-Related Optimal Management of Hypertension

Global aim: Improve maternal health through hospital-facilitated timely recognition and treatment of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy during pregnancy and the postpartum period.





The PROMPT Initiative Toolkit

Using elements from the <u>AIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Patient Safety Bundle</u>, FPQC has adapted content around the following components:

- **Primary Drivers:** Major processes, operating rules, or structures that will contribute to moving toward the aim. In this toolkit, the primary drivers are based on three of AIM's Five Rs Framework (Readiness, Recognition, Response). Respectful Care is a universal component of every driver and activity. Reporting & Systems Learning is captured through our data collection system.
- **Secondary Drivers:** Broad concepts (e.g., "move steps in the process closer together") that are not yet specific enough to be actionable but that will be used to generate specific ideas for change.
- Potentially Better Practices: Actionable, specific ideas for changing a process. Potentially better
 practices can come from research, best practices, or from other organizations that have recognized a
 problem and have demonstrated improvement on a specific issue related to that problem.

Disclaimer

This toolkit is considered a resource. Readers are advised to adapt the guidelines and resources based on their local facility's level of care and patient populations served and are also advised to not rely solely on the guidelines presented here. This toolkit is a working draft and living document. As more recent evidence-based strategies become available, hospitals and providers should update their guidelines and protocols accordingly. The FPQC will also send out updates as well as revise these materials. Please note the version number in the footer.



PROMPT Initiative Toolkit

Readiness: Implementation of standard protocols/processes			
Secondary Driver	Potentially Better Practices	Evidence/Rationale	Tools/Resources
Develop standard	Develop a standardized protocol for	ACOG Practice Bulletin #222	CMQCC Acute Treatment
protocols/processes for	maternal early warning signs, diagnostic	Gestational Hypertension and	<u>Algorithm</u>
identification, management,	criteria, monitoring and treatment of	Preeclampsia: ACOG recommends	 CMQCC Preeclampsia
and treatment of severe HTN	severe preeclampsia/ eclampsia (including	treatment for persistent, severe	Screening Tool
	order sets and algorithms), to include BP	hypertension within 30-60 minutes.	 Implementing Obstetric Early
	assessment, laboratory assessment, and		Warning Systems
	fetal assessment.	ACOG CO #667 Hospital-Based Triage	 ACOG Hypertensive
	 Develop a process for the timely triage 	of Obstetric Patients: ACOG	Emergency Checklist
	and evaluation of pregnant and	recommends collaborating with	 ACOG Eclampsia Checklist
	postpartum patients with severe	other departments to create	 ACOG ED Postpartum
	hypertension or related symptoms.	guidelines for triage of pregnant	Preeclampsia Checklist
	 Develop a system plan for escalation, 	women in all hospital settings and	
	obtaining appropriate consultation, and	standardized triage protocols.	
	maternal transfer as needed.		
	Ensure ready reference to the algorithms	ACOG Practice Bulletin #203 Chronic	
	for identifying, assessing, and treating	<u>Hypertension in Pregnancy</u> : When	
	severe. hypertension/preeclampsia on all	antihypertensive therapy is used	
	units	during pregnancy, an important	
	Connect with local ED/EMS to ensure	consideration is the context of	
	protocols are aligned.	therapy, which is either 1) chronic	
		treatment to lower blood pressure to	
		maintenance levels, sometimes	
		slowly during 24–48 hours often in	
		the outpatient setting, or 2) acute	
		lowering of critical hypertension in	
		the hospital setting.	

Ensure rapid access to severe HTN medication	 Establish locations of key medications in all units to ensure easy, rapid access (consider creating workflows). Ensure easy access to instructions for dosage and administration and develop processes to ensure medication. availability is checked regularly Develop or modify standard order sets for hypertension/preeclampsia medications. 	ACOG Practice Bulletin #222 Gestational Hypertension and Preeclampsia: ACOG recommends urgent blood pressure control with antihypertensive medications such as labetalol, hydralazine and immediate release nifedipine. Kantorowska et al. 2020: Timely treatment of severe hypertension in pregnancy is crucial to prevent end organ damage and may be facilitated though expedited medication access. Martin et al. 2021: Use of a standardized order set for the management of severe hypertension in pregnancy improves the timely administration of antihypertensive medications.	 FPQC Sample Acute-Onset, Severe Hypertension and Eclampsia Medication Kit – coming soon FPQC OB Emergency Cart – coming soon ACOG Labetalol Algorithm ACOG Hydralazine Algorithm ACOG Oral Nifedipine Algorithm
Integrate a patient advisor on your QI team	 Work with local Healthy Start Coalition and other community organizations to connect patients and families to serve as hospital advisors. Create a patient engagement plan to include ongoing recruitment activities, communications, orientation, and advisor expectations. 	Family Engagement at the Systems Level: A Framework for Action Family-centered care that involves patients at the individual and system-wide levels as allies in their care has been associated with improved quality and safety, cost savings, improved health outcomes, increased patient and provider satisfaction, and more effective policies.	 Alberta Health Guide to Patient Engagement FPQC Involving Patients in QI One Pager – coming soon
Recognition: Early identification			
Secondary Driver	Potentially Better Practices	Evidence/Rationale	Tools/Resources
Assess and document if	Ask all patients of reproductive age if	ACOG Identifying and Managing	 FL MMRC One-Pager
patient presenting is	pregnant in the past year in all clinical	Obstetric Emergencies in	 Statement from ACOG –
pregnant or has been within		Nonobstetric Settings: ACOG	coming soon

the past year in all care settings	settings including by EMS/Emergency Departments. Incorporate pregnancy status within the last year question into the EMR. Post signage in EDs for patients and families to notify providers if pregnant in past year.	recommends screening for pregnancy in the last year in all non-obstetric settings. Florida Maternal Mortality Review Committee findings have noted an increase in maternal morbidity and mortality through 12 months postpartum secondary to HTN and its complications, which predominantly occur postpartum.	 Statement from ED Doctors – coming soon FPQC ED Clinician Signage FPQC Post-Birth Wallet Card
		AWHONN & ENA Joint Statement on the Care of OB Patients in the ED: Health care professionals should be prepared to stabilize and treat pregnant or postpartum patients who presents to the emergency setting.	
Ensure accurate blood	Ensure BP is measured by all clinicians	Hurrell A, Webster L, Chappell LC,	FPQC BP Assessment PPT –
pressure measurement and	accurately and consistently every time.	Shennan AH: Article reviews	coming soon
assessment	 Provide clinical education on proper blood 	accurate BP assessment in perinatal	FPQC BP Clinician
	pressure measurement including the "gold	patients as essential to guide	Competency – coming soon
	standard" of manual measurement.	management of hypertension.	 Clinician BP Key Elements
	Automated BP is acceptable if clinical		AWHONN Infographic
	observation and assessment confirms	Hypertension in Pregnancy:	
	appropriate technique using a validated	Diagnosis, Blood Pressure Goals,	
	device.	and Pharmacotherapy: A Scientific	
		Statement from the American Heart	
		Association: The American Heart Association	
		states: "Accurate BP measurement	
		is crucial for classifying	
		hypertension and initiating	
		treatment, regardless of pregnancy	
		status."	

Provide verbal and written HTN education to patients and support persons	 Provide education on HTN red flags and reasons to seek emergency care in pregnancy and postpartum while including support persons in all educational components. All education should be culturally relevant, available in multiple languages and accessible to patients with low health literacy. Provide instructions and education using multiple modalities (handouts, videos, bedside verbal instruction) on how to appropriately self-measure BP and include teach-back method. Ensure patients have access to a validated BP cuff at discharge and have been given education to use it properly with instructions on when to contact their provider. Consider other resources for BP cuffs: Medicaid plan, remote telehealth monitoring, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), etc. Ensure patients have contact information for their providers, know when to seek 	ACOG CO #736 - Optimizing Postpartum Care: ACOG recommends patients and support persons receive education on warning signs for hypertensive disorders. ACOG CO #676 - Health Literacy to Promote Quality of Care: Learning preferences and levels of health literacy vary among patients. Materials accessible to all patients are essential to communicate with a diverse population (health literacy, multiple languages, appropriate reading level, infographic style).	 AWHONN PBWS Digital Download AIM Maternal Early Warning Signs FPQC Wrist Cuff Patient Education – coming soon FPQC Arm Cuff Patient Education – coming soon Preeclampsia Foundation Video to do Self-Measured BP CDC HEAR HER Campaign FPQC Post-Birth Wallet Card IHI Teach Back Method
	 Ensure patients have contact information for their providers, know when to seek care, and the dates/times of any follow-up appointments. 		
Provide interdisciplinary clinician team training for early recognition and treatment of OB hypertensive emergencies (ED, OB, Cardiology, ICU, or other units as appropriate)	 Facilitate ongoing interdisciplinary patient-centered preeclampsia scenario drills with debriefs that emphasize assessment, emergency interventions including antihypertensive algorithms and eclampsia protocol. Incorporate respectful maternity care components into simulations and drills. 	The Joint Commission Standards PC 06.03.01: for Maternal Safety: The Joint Commission recommends, at minimum, annual interdisciplinary team training essential to improve outcomes. Including all members of the obstetrical team with OB hypertension emergencies simulation and debriefs to decrease	 Free Contact Hour AIM Severe HTN bundle FPQC Sample Simulation – coming soon CMQCC Simulation Examples TJC EP4: Preeclampsia Drills & Debrief Requirements

	 Require at least annual drill participation as an element of evaluation and/or credentialing. Train all providers to not assume that a patient's hypertension is attributed to factors such as race, obesity, socioeconomic status, mental health, diet, pain, or anxiety. 	obstetric-related morbidity and mortality by improving the team's communication and response in a true emergency. TJC 06.03.01 EP 3 & 4: 3: Provide education on roles, team training. 4: Conduct drills at least annually to determine system issues as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts. Severe hypertension/preeclampsia drills include a team debrief.	
Response: Management for ev	ery pregnant or PP patient with acute severe HTN		
Secondary Driver	Potentially Better Practices	Evidence/Rationale	Tools/Resources
Implement standardized	Convene an interdisciplinary hospital team	TJC PC.06.03.01: Reduce the	CMQCC Team Debrief
protocol for treatment of	to customize and implement standardized	likelihood of harm related to	<u>Form</u>
severe HTN	protocols for the recognition, response and	preeclampsia. Per EP2: Written	 CMQCC Hypertension
	treatment of severe hypertension.	procedures should be developed by	Algorithm with
	 Coordinate with pharmacy teams to ensure 	multidisciplinary team that includes	Implementation Tips
	rapid medication availability in all units.	representation from Obstetrics, ED,	 CMQCC stop sign for ED
	 Develop nurse driven protocols/ standing 	Anesthesiology, Nursing, Lab and	 CMQCC Guidance for
	orders to allow for rapid identification and	Pharmacy.	Rapid Debrief and Sample
	treatment of severe hypertension.		Form_
	 Identify champions and early adopters in 	ACOG Practice Bulletin #222	AIM MEWS example
	multiple departments to pilot protocols	Gestational Hypertension and	protocol
	and processes prior to full scale adoption.	Preeclampsia: ACOG recommends	·
	Use the EHR to implement and execute	treatment for persistent, severe	
	existing electronic order sets to align with	hypertension within 30-60 minutes.	
	standardized protocols.		
		SMFM Hypertension in Pregnancy	
		Change Package: SMFM	
		recommends quality improvement	
		and implementation of evidence-	
		based tools to improve maternal	
		morbidity and mortality	

Provide trauma-informed	Educate providers and staff on potential	ACOG CO #825- Caring for patients	What to Expect in the
support for patients	traumatic impact of hypertensive disorder	who have experienced trauma:	Hospital – coming soon
	diagnosis on patient's mental health and	ACOG recommends that the entire	Birth Trauma Resources
	feelings regarding current and future	clinical team implements a trauma-	Am I Providing Trauma-
	pregnancies.	informed approach in a physical and	Informed Care?
	 Develop protocols to support patients and 	psychologically safe context when	Second Victim Syndrome
	families through traumatic experiences	interacting with patients. This	Code Lavender guidelines
	surrounding childbirth, particularly related	includes recognition of prevalence	CMQCC Guidance for Rapid
	to hypertensive disorders.	of trauma and effect on patients	Debrief and Sample Form
	Develop protocols to provide peer-to-peer	and providers, building a trauma-	
	support for providers involved in traumatic cases to care for the second victims.	informed workforce, and universal	
	cases to care for the second victims.	screening for a history of and	
		current trauma with attention to	
		avoiding stigmatization and	
		prioritizing resilience.	
Schedule postpartum	Prior to discharge, schedule a postpartum	ACOG CO #736 - Optimizing	PROMPT Postpartum
encounter 3-7 days after	blood pressure check for patients with	Postpartum Care: ACOG	Discharge Flow – coming
discharge	hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	recommends that patients with	soon
	(including patients with risk factors) within	hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	Adopted from PACC Toolbox:
	3-7 days.	have a BP check in 3-7 days	 Maternal Discharge
	 Consider alternative methods of contact 	postpartum and receive education	<u>Assessment</u>
	for patients with limited resources	on warning signs for hypertensive	 Postpartum Discharge
	including telemedicine, text, EHR	disorders.	Assessment
	uploads of logs and home BP	Dungungungungungungungungungungungungungu	Post-Birth Heath Check
	monitoring if needed.	Pregnancy-Associated Stroke and Outcomes Related to Timing and	Billing/Coding
	 Reinforce warning signs of hypertensive disorders and when patients should 	Hypertensive Disorders:	Post-Birth Health Check
	contact their provider (see Recognition	Patients who suffer from	FPQC Post-Birth Wallet Card
	Resources)	hypertension are at an increased	
	Nesourcesy	risk for stroke. It is important that	
		patients are educated on these risks	
		and symptoms, and they may	
		require additional monitoring	
		throughout the postpartum period	
		and beyond.	