



## A Closer Look

# Quality Improvement: One Collaboration at a Time

### Key Points:

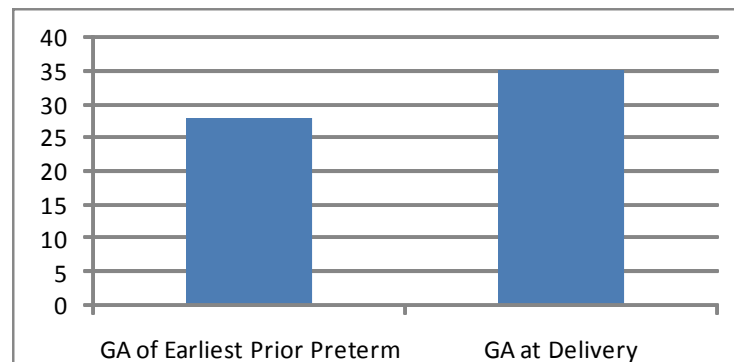
Central Ohio hospitals have worked collaboratively since 2003 to improve quality and patient safety in the following areas:

- Reducing the number and costs associated with healthcare acquired infections;
- Reducing incidents of recurrent preterm birth, and, in turn, reducing NICU costs;
- Delivering all of the recommended care to patients with certain medical conditions;
- Improve physician and employee compliance with hand hygiene protocols.

### Franklin County Hospitals, Other Providers Work Together to Reduce Recurrent Preterm Births

Franklin County's four hospital systems are working together to reduce incidents of recurrent preterm birth through the **Ohio Better Birth Outcomes** initiative. A major component of OBBO is the "Franklin County 17-P Project," in which providers follow a common protocol to identify pregnant women who have had a previous spontaneous preterm birth and provide the women with prenatal therapy injections of 17 Alpha Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate (17P). The therapy is supported by at least six trials, which have shown to reduce the risk of recurrent preterm birth by approximately 35%.

The community protocol calls for providing 17P to women who have a history of one or more spontaneous preterm births between 17 and 36 weeks, ideally beginning between 16 weeks and 20 weeks of pregnancy, and continuing once a week through 36 completed weeks gestation. Since the inception of OBBO, the county's federally qualified health centers and Columbus Public Health OB clinic have joined the initiative and are using the community protocol.



To assist with data collection, the hospitals have created a Web-based "Community Data Entry and Reporting System," in which all participating providers electronically submit patients specific data, including demographic information, gestational age of

earliest preterm birth, gestational age at delivery and number of 17-P injections provided. All participating providers have the ability to access reports, which show aggregate data on the initiative's results. Data from January 1 to June 23 show:

- Women enrolled in the program had an average gestational age of their earliest prior preterm birth of 28 weeks and 1 day;
- Women enrolled in the program had an average gestational age at delivery of 35 weeks and 1 day.

## Central Ohio Hospitals Partner with Business Community to Address Infections; Receive State and National Recognition for Collaborative Work


In 2009, seventeen central Ohio hospitals worked collaboratively to reduce certain types of health care associated infections, through a \$1.5 million grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation.

The *Solutions for Patient Safety* initiative, funded with a \$1.5 million investment from the Cardinal Health Foundation, was a partnership among the Cardinal Health Foundation, the Ohio Business Roundtable, the Central Ohio Hospital Council, the Ohio Hospital Association, the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association and 25 hospitals throughout the state. The goal of the partnership is to improve quality and reduce costs of health care statewide.

As a result of the initiative, Central Ohio hospitals accomplished an 11 percent reduction in hospital-onset MRSA isolates (incidences of MRSA that occur anywhere on the patient, not just in the bloodstream), a 42 percent reduction in MRSA bloodstream infections and a 37 percent reduction of catheter-associated blood borne infections. These reductions have saved 14 lives, eliminated an estimated 918 additional patient days spent in the hospital and saved approximately \$7.5 million per year in unnecessary health care costs in Central Ohio hospitals.

Solutions for Patient safety received not only statewide recognition, with commendations being issued by both the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives, but also national recognition, through comments made by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

"Over the last two years, I've ... toured hospitals that are showing that it's possible to improve patient outcomes. That's why I came to Columbus: to recognize Solutions for Patient Safety for their success, to learn how they've done it, and to help their best ideas spread," Sebelius said this spring at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.



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## Eight Years Later: Hospitals Continue Focus to Deliver “All the Care, All the Time”

Over the past eight years, hospitals participating in the Central Ohio Hospital Quality Collaborative have worked together on a shared focus of improving quality for specific medical conditions. By learning the best practices for these medical conditions and by incorporating them into routine patient care delivery, local hospitals have taken a stand to deliver all of the recommended care to all of the appropriate patients. By standardizing care based on best practices and evidence-based medicine, patient care in the greater central Ohio area is improved and lives are saved.

