Cardiac Conditions in Obstetric Care Patient Safety Bundle Overview

About the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health

The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) is a national, cross-sector commitment designed to support best practices that make birth safer, improve maternal health outcomes, and save lives.

AIM focuses on the implementation of patient safety bundles, collections of evidence-informed best practices, developed by multidisciplinary experts, to address the leading clinical causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. Patient safety bundles include actionable quality improvement steps that can be adapted to a variety of facilities and resource levels. State teams, often Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, provide training, coordination, and support to hospitals and birthing facilities in their jurisdictions to implement bundles. As of April 2026, 74% of birthing hospitals and facilities across the United States are implementing at least one AIM bundle.

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Cardiac conditions are a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths for women in the United States (CDC, 2022). Over 75% of pregnancy-related deaths due to cardiovascular conditions were determined by Maternal Mortality Review Committees to be preventable (JACC, 2024).

The Cardiac Conditions in Obstetric Care Patient Safety Bundle includes recommendations and supportive resources for implementation elements including:

- **Readiness:** Establish a multidisciplinary Pregnancy Heart Team, or identify consultants appropriate to their facility's level of care, for coordinated clinical pathways for patients in the perinatal period.
- **Recognition and Prevention:** Obtain a pregnancy and cardiac history in all settings, including emergency departments and primary care clinics, to identify pregnancy-related cardiac conditions.
- **Response:** Implement standardized checklists and escalation policies for managing patients with known or suspected cardiac issues in coordination with the Pregnancy Heart Team.
- **Reporting and Systems Learning:** Monitor outcomes and process data related to cardiac conditions to evaluate and address known differences in maternal health outcomes.
- **Respectful, Supportive, and Patient-Centered Care:** Screen for health-related social needs and respond to or link to resources that meet all aspects of a patient's care needs.

Visit saferbirth.org for more information, including the full list of element implementation details, data collection plans, change packages, and the AIM Data Center.

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