



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
dph.ga.gov

Jan. 16, 2018

Dear Medical Director,

Georgia has the third highest reported maternal death rate in the United States. Maternal deaths in Georgia increased from 35 per 100,000 live births in 2013 to 57.8 per 100,000 live births in 2015. While the number of maternal deaths is growing nationally, Georgia's increase is nearly three times that of the national rate. In reviewing 2012 and 2013 maternal deaths, Georgia's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) found hemorrhage and hypertension-related illnesses among the leading causes of pregnancy related deaths. Fifty percent of these deaths were determined to be preventable. We need your help to reverse this trend.

In late 2017, the Department of Public Health (DPH) applied to join the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) safehealthcareforeverywoman.org. AIM is a national, data-driven quality improvement program which provides free maternal patient safety bundles for hospitals to use to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Nationally there are 23 AIM states in different stages of the process. Four of the states who were first to join AIM, saw an overall 20 percent decrease of the severe maternal morbidity rate over three years. Twenty-four of Georgia's birthing facilities have already begun the process of implementing these strategies.

DPH, together with providers, birthing hospitals, regional perinatal centers, and all the members of the [Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) (GaPQC), invite you to join our efforts to improve care for Georgia's mothers and babies. Participating hospitals will receive support through their implementation of the maternal patient safety bundles and other quality improvement initiatives, as well as individualized reports on the trajectory of their quality improvement efforts.

Help us reverse Georgia's maternal mortality rate, and be recognized as a hospital that emphasizes the importance of quality and safety. If you would like to learn more about AIM, please contact Grace Kang at 404-657-4855 or grace.kang@dph.ga.gov.

Thank you for all you do to protect the lives of Georgia's mothers and babies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.'.

J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.
Commissioner