Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Dignity Health Commits to Reducing Low Risk Cesarean Birth Rates

What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 11C - Reducing unnecessary cesarean sections (c-sections)

How Many Hospitals Will This Commitment Represent
29
Commitment Summary
Safely reducing the cesarean delivery rate is an important priority for maternity care providers and facilities. As national cesarean rates continue to rise, the development of strategies to reduce cesarean delivery in low-risk women provides an opportunity to improve quality and safety among women and newborns. “Although cesarean delivery can be life-saving for the fetus, the mother, or both in certain cases, the rapid increase in the rate of cesarean births without evidence of concomitant decreases in maternal or neonatal morbidity or mortality raises significant concern that cesarean delivery is overused. Therefore, it is important for health care providers to understand the short-term and long-term tradeoffs between cesarean and vaginal delivery, as well as the safe and appropriate opportunities to prevent overuse of cesarean delivery, particularly primary cesarean delivery.” Safe Prevention of Primary Cesarean Delivery, ACOG, 2014.

Commitment Description & Detail

Action Plan
The safe reduction of low risk cesarean birth requires a multi-faceted approach. Strategies should be facility-specific and strive to support normal vaginal birth for low risk mothers:
- Readiness 
  - Standardized education for staff and providers
- Physician champion identified
- Recognition and Prevention 
  - Admission criteria, labor support practices
- Second stage management 
  - Response (Managing Labor Abnormalities)
- Standardized definitions for labor dystocia and other abnormalities
- Reporting (Using Data to Drive Improvement)
- Facility and provider cesarean rates reviewed and shared
- Balancing measures reviewed and shared

Commitment Timeline
Efforts to safety reduce the rate of low risk cesarean birth are ongoing. We will continue these efforts until all of our hospitals successfully achieve the Health People 2020 goal.