NEW YORK STATE’S
OBSTETRIC SAFETY INITIATIVE
PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONIC FETAL MONITORING

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

A COLLABORATION AMONG

HANYS Healthcare Association of New York State

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

DOH State of New York Department of Health
You are invited to join an exciting new collaborative that will help your facility improve obstetric care.

New York State’s Obstetric Safety Initiative: Providing Excellence in Electronic Fetal Monitoring is a two-year quality improvement initiative that will:

- provide hospital obstetric teams with vital training on how to interpret, communicate, and effectively respond to fetal heart rate (FHR) tracings; and
- help to improve perinatal outcomes, resulting in reduced risk for liability exposure for hospitals and other providers.

This initiative is a collaboration among the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) District II, and the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

**WHY?** The goal of New York State’s Obstetric Safety Initiative: Providing Excellence in Electronic Fetal Monitoring is to improve fetal outcomes in New York State by standardizing the method by which obstetric team members interpret, communicate, document, and manage FHR tracings.

Electronic fetal monitoring (EFM) is the most widely implemented method of intrapartum surveillance. When used appropriately, it can warn the obstetric team of potential fetal complications that lead to injury, including brain damage or death. Yet, interpretation and communication of FHR tracings are inconsistent among obstetric team members using EFM. Variation in the visual interpretation of FHRs and poor communication of FHR patterns can cause adverse perinatal outcomes, compromising the trust and integrity of communications among caregivers and adversely affecting the environment for patient safety.

**SIGN-UP**

All hospitals with obstetric services that have not already received this training are strongly encouraged to participate in the Initiative. Registration, with completed memorandum of agreements, should be completed and received by HANYS by March 25.

To participate, complete the enclosed registration form and return it to HANYS with your memorandum of agreement.
All hospitals with obstetric services are strongly encouraged to participate. Hospitals will be asked to send up to four providers—which should include nurses, and private- and hospital-employed physicians and midwives—to a regional “train-the-trainer” education session. At least one physician and one nurse or nurse midwife must attend. After the educational sessions, these obstetric team members are expected to train their hospital peers to use the standard National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) nomenclature for EFM.

WHO?

The Initiative will run through 2010.

EFM train-the-trainer education sessions will be held according to the schedule below. Designated obstetric team members must attend one of these sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 10-11</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 15-16</td>
<td>Queens</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 17-18</td>
<td>Westchester</td>
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<td>JULY 8-9</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
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<td>JULY 10-11</td>
<td>Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 13-14</td>
<td>Albany</td>
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Details about these programs will be provided to Initiative participants soon.

WHEN?

During the two-year Initiative, participating hospitals will be able to send four obstetric team members to a regional one-and-one-half-day EFM train-the-trainer education session. David Miller, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., and Lisa Miller, C.N.M., J.D., nationally renowned experts in EFM education and its legal implications, will serve as faculty for the regional education sessions. We are pleased to offer this training, typically valued at $1,000, for only $100 per provider. This course is designed to meet the continuing medical education needs of the practicing physician, nurse midwife, and nurse.

The regional education programs will help hospital obstetric teams learn how to train clinicians to:

- standardize communication among all obstetric providers by applying the NICHD terminology;
- implement a standardized, evidence-based approach to EFM interpretation and management within their hospitals;
- overcome barriers to teamwork using crew resource management principles;
- describe essential elements of documentation related to EFM charting; and
- describe key legal elements and factors critical to accuracy during a deposition.

Initiative participants will also be able to:

- provide the tools necessary to encourage all obstetric providers to be trained in EFM;
- receive exam fee reimbursement for one doctor and one nurse or nurse midwife to complete the National Certification Corporation EFM certification exam; and
- collect and share minimal comparative data—each hospital will receive blinded comparative reports.
EXPERT FACULTY

The six regional education sessions will be presented by faculty nationally renowned in the EFM field.

DAVID A. MILLER, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Dr. Miller is Professor of Clinical Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Pediatrics at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. He is the Medical Director of the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles—University of Southern California Institute for Maternal-Fetal Health, a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional center specializing in fetal and neonatal diagnosis and therapy. He is Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Director of the USC Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program Rotation at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Miller has served as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Journal of Reproductive Medicine, the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Journal of Perinatology and Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy. He is an oral board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of ACOG, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society. He is co-author of Fetal Monitoring and Assessment (6th edition, Mosby 2008). Dr. Miller received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and his medical degree from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. He completed internship and residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and fellowship training in maternal fetal medicine at the University of Southern California. Board certified in obstetrics, gynecology, and maternal-fetal medicine, Dr. Miller’s academic interests include antepartum and intrapartum fetal evaluation with emphasis on fetal physiology and effective, standardized methods of training in electronic fetal heart rate monitoring.

LISA MILLER, C.N.M., J.D.
President of Perinatal Risk Management and Education Services, Ms. Miller is a certified nurse midwife with more than 25 years of clinical experience in a variety of settings. Also an attorney, she has a unique understanding of the impact of law on medicine and nursing. Ms. Miller served as an Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University Medical School and is published in the areas of EFM, obstetrics, and patient safety. Committed to improving the quality of perinatal health care, she lectures nationally and internationally on a variety of obstetric, women’s health, and risk management topics, currently focusing on the effects of cognitive bias during health care decision-making. Ms. Miller is on the editorial board of the Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing, and provides peer review for the Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health. She is an active member of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), and is a member of ACNM’s Quality Management section. Ms. Miller also provides consultation and education services to hospitals, individual providers, and professional organizations, where her concentration is on multi-disciplinary education and collaboration.

This two-year Initiative is conducted under the guidance of an expert Task Force, co-chaired by Joel Seligman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Westchester Hospital, and Richard Berkowitz, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Director of Residency Program and Quality Improvement, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital–Columbia University Medical Center, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The Initiative is generously funded by the New York State Health Foundation.