Iowa Statewide Perinatal Care Program Facts

Perinatal Care Team Members:

Michael Acarregui, MD – Neonatologist and Director

Stephen Hunter, MD, PhD- Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, Associate Director

Penny Smith, RNC – Neonatal Nurse Consultant

Amy Sanborn, RNC- Obstetrical Nurse Consultant

Susan Carlson, RD – Neonatal Dietician

Katherine Brogden – Secretary and Program Coordinator

All Team members are employed at UIHC and each has 10 - 20 + years of experience in their specialty. The clinical activity of the physicians and nurses in the care of complicated obstetrical and neonatal patients keeps their expertise current and relevant.

The Program:

- 1. Is in its 36th year of operation.
- 2. Is responsible for maintaining lowa's Regionalized System of Perinatal Care This is Iowa's System of referral for progressively complex patients to higher levels of care. This system results in obstetrical excellent and neonatal outcomes with an infant mortality rate among the lowest in the United States (< 5.0 / 1000 live births) and a remarkably low neonatal death rate in lowa's rural hospitals (1.48 / 1000 live births). With these outcomes, there is interest in other states in modeling the program to improve their perinatal

outcomes. In May of 2008, The Commonwealth Fund ranked lowa as the state with "the best overall health care system for children". One of the several programs cited as instrumental to this achievement was the <u>lowa Statewide Perinatal Care Program</u>.

- 3. Promotes Quality and Safety in patient care through:
- a. Direct critical peer review of medical records with visits to all lowa hospitals providing obstetrical care. Level I hospitals with obstetrical services are visited on a biennial basis and Level II and III centers are visited Review of adverse events annually. including all maternal, neonatal and fetal deaths (stillbirths) is performed with a focus issues on of possible preventability.
- b. Dissemination of current, evidence-based guidelines to hospitals, administrators, nurses and physicians via:
- i. On site delivery face-to-face education and discussion.
- ii. Quarterly publication of "The lowa Perinatal Letter" and "Progeny" (1925 recipients).
- iii. Generation of the Iowa Guidelines for Perinatal Services.

These activities and publications promote current standards for safety and quality in patient care that serve to standardize perinatal care across lowa.

Iowa Perinatal Care Program

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/perinatal_newsletters.asp

- 4. Provides IDPH access to maternity hospitals and staff as the Program maintains a regularly updated database of hospitals, administrators, nurses and physicians who are active at lowa's maternity hospitals. This communication network is a valuable tool for the rapid dissemination of new information to the many professionals served by the Program.
- 5. Is consulted <u>daily</u> by physicians and nurses at community hospitals regarding an array of issues in the care of mothers and babies. The Team is also frequently asked by hospital administrators to share their expertise by providing peer review of difficult cases at hospitals across lowa.
- 6. Presents the Annual Iowa Conference on Perinatal Medicine: Over 220 physicians. public health nurses. officials and hospital administrators attend annually. Nationally known experts in perinatal care speak at this two-day conference in Des Moines. This is an unusual educational opportunity since it is designed to meet the needs of all perinatal healthcare This year's topics include providers. "Management of the Obese Parturient" and "Medical-Legal Issues in Obstetrics and in Newborn Resuscitation". These are relevant topics since obesity is

- recognized as a major contributor to maternal death and complications for mothers babies. both and Since perinatal injury to babies can have lifeconsequences, discussions of medical-legal concerns are of great interest to those providing perinatal care services. The 2009 Conference was the 35th Annual! This professional conference is self-sustaining and funded primarily through the registration fees of the attendees.
- 7. The Iowa Statewide Perinatal Care Team is instrumental in generating and updating the Iowa Perinatal Guidelines for Services every few years. guidelines are then reviewed approved multidisciplinary bv а committee. The most recent guideline was published and distributed in 2008. changes in the guidelines Recent included recommendations screening of mothers and babies for exposure to toxic substances during pregnancy, safe guidelines for labor induction and the use of Pitocin, and a regionalized designation hospitals with increased neonatology services.

You can access the lowa Perinatal Letter online at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/perina tal_newsletters.asp