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Oklahoma Hospitals Recognized for Efforts to Improve Outcomes for Oklahoma Mothers and Babies

Eight Oklahoma hospitals recently received awards for providing excellence in perinatal care from the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative. The awards were presented at the seventh annual summit of the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (OPQIC) on Oct. 2. Approximately 200 providers and advocates of maternal and infant care came together at the virtual event to acknowledge efforts and celebrate progress toward improving outcomes for Oklahoma’s mothers and babies.

Hospitals receiving the “Spotlight Hospital Awards” were recognized for participation and sustained improvement in the areas of early elective deliveries (inducing labor and scheduling cesarean births before 39 weeks without a medical reason), education to prevent abusive head trauma (commonly known as shaken baby syndrome), modeling and promoting safe sleep practices, accurate newborn screening, creating an environment that is supportive of best practices in maternity care and breastfeeding, and being prepared for obstetrical emergencies (such as hemorrhage and preeclampsia) through training, guidelines and hospital resources.

Receiving “Spotlight Hospital” awards for 2020 were:

Comanche County Memorial Hospital, Lawton
Duncan Regional Hospital, Duncan
INTEGRIS Canadian Valley Hospital, Yukon
Lakeside Women’s Hospital, Oklahoma City
Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City
Norman Regional HealthPlex, Norman
St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Enid
The Children’s Hospital at OU Medicine, Oklahoma City

Oklahoma’s infant mortality and severe maternal illness rate have both decreased by approximately 20% since these initiatives have begun. OPQIC expressed thanks to Oklahoma
birthing hospitals and other partners for their dedication and commitment to improvement of maternal and infant health outcomes in Oklahoma.

Partners in the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative include: Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Oklahoma Hospital Association, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Departments of OB/GYN and Pediatrics, Oklahoma birthing hospitals and others.

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The Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (OPQIC) launched in 2014 with a mission to provide leadership and engage interested stakeholders in a collaborative effort to improve the health outcomes for Oklahoma women and infants using evidence-based practice guidelines and quality improvement processes. OPQIC works with Oklahoma birthing hospitals and perinatal care providers of all types to improve perinatal care of Oklahoma mothers and newborns by collaborating with partners to identify and remove barriers to providing safe, quality perinatal care. OPQIC is funded by OSDH through the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Program and by cooperative agreement with HRSA and OSDH through the State Maternal Health Innovation Program. The Office of Perinatal Quality Improvement at OUHSC administers the activities of OPQIC. Visit opqic.org for more information.

The Office of Perinatal Quality Improvement at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, has worked with Oklahoma birthing hospitals for 36 years to improve maternal and infant care for Oklahoma families by providing education, maximizing resources and collaborating with partners to identify and remove barriers to providing safe, quality perinatal care.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health’s “Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility” is a statewide initiative to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant deaths in Oklahoma and focuses on seven specific areas: preconception and interconception care (being healthy before and between pregnancies), tobacco use prevention, prematurity, postpartum depression, breastfeeding, infant safe sleep, and infant injury prevention. Using state and community-based level partnerships, strategies include public education, policy change, and support of health care providers and birthing hospitals through training and technical assistance.

The Oklahoma Hospital Association is the voice of hospitals in Oklahoma. Established in 1919, the OHA represents more than 135 hospitals and health systems across the state. OHA’s primary objective is to promote the health and welfare of all Oklahomans by leading and assisting its member organizations in providing high quality, safe and valued health care services to their communities. The OHA also believes hospitals play a vital role in helping to advance the overall state of health for their patients and the public at-large. For more information, go to www.okoha.com.