Background

This innovative program partners the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) with Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) to collaborate with nine outlying hospital nurseries and labor and delivery units. This innovative program serves obstetrical and neonatal patients by launching a regional Obstetrical and Neonatal Telemedicine Triage system, virtual clinical census rounds, integration of targeted evidence-based clinical interventions, fetal echocardiograms with a pediatric cardiologist, and discharge management of high-risk neonates.

Program Goals

- To improve management of obstetrical (OB) and neonatal patients through access to specialty and subspecialty support
- To improve evidenced based practice compliance
- Provide discharge coordination for very low birth weight neonates and high-risk OB patients
- To increase accessibility for high-risk OB patients who are in need of fetal echocardiography and provide fetal echocardiography training to partner sites
- To develop a regional triage network for high-risk OB and neonatal patients

Results

- Nine regional sites participated
- Interactive video equipment – installed and trained all sites
- Twice weekly interactive video OB census rounds
- Interactive video telenursery census rounds three times weekly
- Piloted interactive nurse-to-nurse reporting on transported OB patients
- Three monthly regional interactive video fetal echo clinics
- Initiated neonatal back transports to seven partnering sites

Continued Efforts

- Facilitate appropriate back transport of babies back into their home communities while offering co-management to the providers via interactive video
- Discharge care coordination of babies born at, or transported to, UAMS/ACH from the partner sites
- Assist the primary care providers in obtaining follow up appointments with sub-specialists
- To improve management of obstetrical (OB) and neonatal patients through access to specialty and subspecialty support
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Pediatric Cardiologist Viewing Live Fetal Echo

Contact Information

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Interactive Nurse-to-Nurse Report

Continual Circle of Improved Care

• To educate families on the importance of sub-specialty follow up
• Perform regional fetal echocardiogram clinics using a certified fetal echocardiography technologist
• Perform training to providers at partner sites on optimal heart views via ultrasound

Counting Beds and Shuffling Babies: Coordinating Labor and Delivery and NICU Bed Space Across Arkansas
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