Maternal Health Congress

Proposal 31

Title: Require Hospitals to Submit a Death Summary to Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for all In-Hospital Deaths

Submitter: John Holcomb, MD

Affiliated organization: (self)

Category: Public health system improvement

Description of the problem:

- Accurate reporting of pregnancy-related deaths is critical to the study of maternal mortality and maternal morbidity in Texas. Texas statute requires the completion and filing of a death record within a 10-day period. This process is typically coordinated by a funeral director and is intended to support family members who have various needs for verification of a death.
- Information on the cause of death record is completed by a medical certifier who is typically the attending physician (including a medical examiner in certain types of deaths).
- While the medical certifier for a death record is typically a physician, without a definition of an ‘attending physician’ it is unknown if the physician identified to complete the record is always a physician with current and accurate information on the deceased person, and in particular on their history of pregnancy.
- With 254 diverse counties, it would be important to have a recording and assessment of the processes followed in identifying the cause of death in Texas counties, and in particular, those associated with a pregnancy history and/or use or misuse of controlled substances, a confirmed factor in many of Texas’ maternal deaths.

Proposed solution:

Require all hospitals to submit to DSHS a death summary for all in-hospital deaths within 30 days of a delivery.

Key stakeholders:

Physicians, hospitals, and DSHS

Potential cost savings or costs associated: None listed.

Relevant TMA policy:

Relevant AMA policy:

Improving Death Certification Accuracy and Completion H-85.953
Accuracy, Importance, and Application of Data from the US Vital Statistics System H-85.961
Improving the Accuracy of Death Certificates H-85.981

Citations:
Health and Safety Code, Chapter 193, Death Records:

Title: Addressing Improvement for Access to Health Information
Submitter: Carla Ortique, MD
Affiliated organization: Systems of Care Workgroup
Category: Public health system improvement

**Description of the problem:**
Incomplete health records for women.

**Proposed solution:** Encourage development of a statewide database regarding women’s reproductive health that allows patients to enter/upload data that would be accessible with patient consent to any authorized health care provider (an existing similar model is ImmTrac). Explore cloud based technology that would support this effort.

TMA can develop continuing medical education on importance of quality data entry targeting obstetrics providers.

**Key stakeholders:** None listed.

**Potential cost savings or costs associated:** None listed.

**Relevant TMA policy:** None listed.

**Relevant AMA policy:** Standard Terminology for Reporting of Reproductive Health Statistics in the United States H-420.982

**Citations:** None listed.
Maternal Health Congress
Proposal 33

Title: Addressing Improvement for Access to Health Information
Submitter: Carla Ortique, MD
Affiliated organization: Systems of Care Workgroup
Category: Public health system improvement

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**Description of the problem:**
Inadequate or inconsistent data on death certificate.

**Proposed solution:** Partner with Texas Department of State Health Services to develop and disseminate webinar content, continuing medical education, and basic medical education on death certificate data entry. Tara Das, PhD, the state registrar, has a phenomenal presentation on this topic and would be the point person on integrating this with TMA and medical schools.

**Key stakeholders:** None listed.

**Potential cost savings or costs associated:** None listed.

**Relevant TMA policy:** None listed.

**Relevant AMA policy:** None listed.

**Citations:** None listed.
Maternal Health Congress

Proposal 34

Title: Addressing Improvement for Access to Health Information

Submitter: Carla Ortique, MD

Affiliated organization: Systems of Care Workgroup

Category: Public health system improvement

Description of the problem:
Lack of common understanding of preventive intervention in maternal health

Proposed solution:
Partner with Texas Department of State Health Services to develop public awareness campaigns related to the following:
- Importance of early entry to prenatal care;
- Recognition of warning signs of postpartum mood disorders; and
- Importance of postpartum care.

Key stakeholders: None listed.

Potential cost savings or costs associated: None listed.

Relevant TMA policy:
140.002 Prenatal and Perinatal Care

Relevant AMA policy:
Improving Mental Health Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Mothers H-420.953
Prenatal Services to Prevent Low Birthweight Infants H-420.972
Improving Treatment and Diagnosis of Maternal Depression Through Screening and State-Based Care Coordination D-420.991
Preconception Care H-425.976

Citations: None listed.
Title: Addressing Improvement for Access to Health Information

Submitter: Carla Ortique, MD

Affiliated organization: Systems of Care Workgroup

Category: Other

Description of the problem:
Lack of awareness of life course approach in women’s health in all practice settings.

Proposed solution:
Develop continuing medical education on importance of life course approach and integrated care for any physician who has reproductive age female patients.

Key stakeholders: None listed.

Potential cost savings or costs associated: None listed.

Relevant TMA policy: None listed.

Relevant AMA policy: None listed.

Citations: None listed.