What Works: Ensuring Access to Preconception, Prenatal and Postpartum Care

Maternal Mortality Fact Sheet, WHO, 2018: Describes the key facts around maternal mortality and outlines how WHO works to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality.

Preconception Care

Information on Preconception Health and Health Care, CDC, 2017: Gives information on preconception health and health care. Includes tips for women who are planning a pregnancy, women who aren’t planning to get pregnant, and steps men can take to support their partners.

Before, Between, and Beyond Pregnancy, National Preconception Health and Health Care (PCHHC): Designed to be a "one-stop" resource for clinicians and others who want to learn more about preconception health, the evidence supporting it, and strategies for incorporating relevant content into clinical practice. The website includes CME opportunities, clinical guidance, resources, and news.

Prenatal Care


Postpartum Care

Optimizing Postpartum Care, ACOG Committee Opinion, 2018: Given the urgent need to reduce severe maternal morbidity and mortality, this Committee Opinion reinforces the importance of the “fourth trimester” and proposes a new paradigm for postpartum care.

Postpartum Toolkit, ACOG: This toolkit includes resources on the key components of postpartum care, including long-term weight management, pregnancy complications, reproductive life-planning, reimbursement guidance, and a sample postpartum checklist for patients to complete before their visit.

Postpartum Care Basics for Maternal Safety (+AIM), AIM: These patient safety bundles, developed by the Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care, provide information on birth to the comprehensive postpartum visit and the transition from maternity to well-woman care.

Rural Access Issues

Maternal Health Care Is Disappearing in Rural America, Scientific American, 2017

Another Thing Disappearing From Rural America: Maternal Care, Propublica, 2018

Rural America’s disappearing maternity care, Washington Post, 2017

Click here to return to the Maternal Mortality Prevention webpage or visit healthystartepic.org.