



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 19, 2014

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MARCH OF DIMES HONORS ILLINOIS HOSPITALS FOR COMMITMENT TO MOM AND BABY HEALTH Reduction in Elective Deliveries Gives More Babies a Healthy Start

CHICAGO, Nov. 19, 2014 – Thirty-five Illinois hospitals are being recognized today for reducing the number of elective deliveries performed before 39 completed weeks of pregnancy. This will give more babies a healthy start in life, as babies born too early may have more health problems at birth and later in life than babies born full term.

March of Dimes partnered with the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) and the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) to honor participating hospitals with a banner indicating their commitment to improving the quality of care for moms and babies. Qualifying hospitals, which participate in ILPQC or the IHA Hospital Engagement Network, have shown evidence of at least six months' worth of early elective deliveries rates that fall below 5 percent and a hospital policy to avoid scheduling non-medically necessary deliveries before 39 weeks of pregnancy.

"We are proud of our members who have partnered with the March of Dimes on this initiative to reduce early elective deliveries in an effort to improve maternal health and promote the healthiest possible beginning for all babies," said Maryjane Wurth, president and CEO of the Illinois Hospital Association.

Babies born just a few weeks early have higher rates of hospitalization and illness than full-term infants. Recent research by the March of Dimes, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found that the risk of death more than doubles for infants born at 37 weeks of pregnancy when compared to babies born at 40 weeks.

"Congratulations to all hospitals participating in the ILPQC Early Elective Delivery Initiative!" Ann Borders, M.D., MSc, MPH, Evanston Hospital, NorthShore University HealthSystem, ILPQC executive director and obstetric lead. "This accomplishment reflects teamwork and dedication to quality improvement and commitment to better outcomes for moms and babies in Illinois."

Hospitals receiving the award include:

- Advocate BroMenn Medical Center
- Advocate Christ Medical Center
- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
- Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
- Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
- Advocate Sherman Hospital
- Advocate South Suburban Hospital
- Carle Foundation Hospital
- Central DuPage Hospital
- Decatur Memorial Hospital
- Edward Hospital
- Elmhurst Memorial Hospital
- Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services
- Graham Health System
- Greenville Regional Hospital
- HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
- HSHS St. Francis Hospital
- HSHS St. John's Hospital
- Kishwaukee Hospital
- MacNeal Hospital
- Memorial Hospital of Carbondale
- NorthShore University HealthSystem- Evanston Hospital
- Northwest Community Hospital
- Palos Community Hospital
- Passavant Area Hospital
- Presence Resurrection Medical Center
- Presence St. Joseph Medical Center
- Rush-Copley Medical Center
- Saint Anthony Hospital
- Silver Cross Hospital
- St. Alexius Medical Center
- Swedish Covenant Hospital
- Valley West Hospital
- Vista Medical Center East
- Westlake Hospital



About March of Dimes

March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.org/illinois or nacersano.org. Find us at facebook.com/marchofdimesIL, twitter.com/marchofdimesIL and instagram.com/marchofdimesIL.

About IHA

The Illinois Hospital Association, with offices in Naperville, Springfield and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 50 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services – not just within their walls, but across the continuum of health care and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned, and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see www.ihatoday.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/IHA). Follow IHA on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/IHA).

About ILPQC

The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) was formed in late 2012 when the Illinois Perinatal Advisory Committee's Prematurity Task Force report to the Illinois legislature recommended that "resources be provided for a perinatal quality collaborative to work in tandem with the Regionalized Perinatal Program to engage in ongoing quality improvement initiatives" in both obstetrics and neonatology at the hospital level. ILPQC has worked with other stakeholders around the state, including: IL Department of Public Health, IL Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), CHIPRA, March of Dimes, Illinois Hospital Association, Midwest Business Group for Health, ACOG, AAP, AAFP, AWHONN and others to provide hospitals participating in ILPQC quality improvement initiatives with education, collaborative learning and rapid response quality improvement data support. ILPQC is currently one of six CDC-funded U.S. state perinatal quality collaboratives providing quality improvement infrastructure, resources, and data management support to over 50 hospitals across the state – helping to make Illinois an even better place to be born. For questions on ILPQC or other ILPQC initiatives, please contact us at info@ilpqc.org or visit our website at www.ilpqc.org.

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