



Gathering the Rural OB Workforce in WI GROW-WI ECHO Program

How to Join:

<https://iecho.org/public/program/PRGM17425658124325CC96FHKX3>

For attendance purposes, please text the code **NERSOH** to **608-260-7097**.

Session Date: February 24, 2026

Facilitator: Allegra Ponschok, MD

	Topic	Presenter
Case Presentation	Neonatal Palliative Care in the Small Hospital Setting	Charles Pearce, MD CDR (FMF) MC USNR/Surgical Co Alpha, 4th Med BN VPMA/CMO Upland Hills Health Physician MEP Health Dodgeville, WI
Educational Presentation	4 th Trimester Care	Lee Dresang, MD, Professor Rural FMOB Fellowship Co-Director UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Madison, WI

Agenda:

7:30 – 7:35 AM – Welcome and Introductions

-Text-in your attendance, even if you do not plan to claim Continuing Education credits.

7:35 – 8:00 AM – Case Presentation & Discussion

8:00 – 8:30 AM – Educational Presentation

Continuing Education Credits:

To claim CE credit, **you must complete the evaluation form after each session.**

ICEP will email you a link to the evaluation form after texting in for attendance.

**GROW-WI ECHO (Gathering the Rural OB Workforce in WI)
2025-2026
4th Trimester Care
February 24, 2026
Lee Dresang, MD; Charles Pearce, MD**

Provided by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (ICEP)

Intended Audience:

MD/DO, RN, APRN, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives, Students

Objectives:

1. Summarize the Fourth Trimester Model of Postpartum care as a continuum of tailored care that begins with prenatal anticipatory guidance and continues to planning for ongoing prevention and chronic disease management past the 12-week postpartum visit
2. Identify ways fourth trimester care is unique in rural settings
3. Describe how rural providers can improve fourth trimester care

Policy on Disclosure

It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (ICEP) to identify, mitigate and disclose all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies* held by the speakers/presenters, authors, planners, and other persons who may influence the content of this accredited continuing education (CE). In addition, speakers, presenters, and authors must disclose any planned discussion of unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or devices during their presentation. For this accredited continuing education activity, all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated and detailed disclosures are listed below.

** **Ineligible companies** are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be ineligible companies.*

Name	Role	Financial Relationship Disclosures	Discussion of unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs/devices in presentation	COI completion date
Lee Dresang, MD	Presenter	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	No	1/5/2026
Charles Pearce, MD	Presenter	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	No	2/2/2026
Jillian Landeck, MD	RSS Chair	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/2/2025
Jenny White	RSS Coordinator	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/1/2025
Katherine Breitenmoser, CPM, LM	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/2/2025
Bonnie Brown, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/4/2025
Jensena Carlson, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/10/2025
Lee Dresang, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/1/2025
Rachel Hartline, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/10/2025
Caitlin Hill, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/12/2025
Ryan Luellwitz, DO	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/12/2025
Allegra Ponshock, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/1/2025
Ryan Spencer, MD	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/4/2025
Cindy Stippich, CNM	Planner	No relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.	NA	12/8/2025

Accreditation Statement



In support of improving patient care, the University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit Designation Statements

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 ANCC contact hour(s).

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP, as a member of the University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA), authorizes this program for 0.1 CEUs or 1.0 hour.

Welcome!

We will get started shortly.

Feel free to share your name, specialty/role, and practice location in the chat.

For attendance purposes please text the code **NERSOH** to 608-260-7097.

Please text for attendance, **even if you are *not* claiming** continuing education credit.

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Accreditation Information

Accreditation Statement



In support of improving patient care, the University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit Designation Statements

American Medical Association (AMA)

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 ANCC contact hour.

Continuing Education Units

The University of Wisconsin–Madison ICEP, as a member of the University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA), authorizes this program for 0.1 continuing education units (CEUs) or 1 hour.

G R O W – W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Disclosures

Policy on Faculty and Sponsor Disclosure

- It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (ICEP) to identify, mitigate and disclose all relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies* held by the speakers/presenters, authors, planners, and other persons who may influence content of this accredited continuing education (CE). In addition, speakers, presenters and authors must disclose any planned discussion of unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or devices during their presentation. For this accredited continuing education activity, all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated and detailed disclosures are listed below.

* Ineligible companies are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be ineligible companies.

- The planning committee has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Attendance

- For attendance purposes please text the code **NERSOH** to 608-260-7097
- Please text for attendance, even if you are *not* claiming continuing education credit.

Continuing Ed Credit

To receive continuing education credit:

1. Log your attendance (as above)
 - **Create an ICEP account if you don't already have one.**
2. Fill out the session evaluation form to receive credit – **REQUIRED for credit.**
 - A link to the evaluation will be sent after you text the code.

Update on Midwife CEUs

For **Certified Professional Midwife** Continuing Education Credit:

- We are unable to meet MEAC Continuing Education credit requirements.
- The GROW-WI ECHO sessions may be used to meet the [NARM Continuing Education Category 2 CEUs](#).

For **Certified Nurse Midwife** Continuing Education Credit:

- The [ACNM Continuing Education Committee](#) accepts AMA PRA Category 1 Continuing Education Credit.
- The GROW-WI ECHO sessions are approved for this.

For **Everyone**:

- To receive any Continuing Education credits, participants must:
 - [Create a free ICEP account](#).
 - Text the attendance code at the time of the session.
 - **Fill out the evaluation** at the end of the session.

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Planning Team – Updates!



Katherine Breitenmoser, CPM,
LM – Windy Hill Midwifery, LLC,
Merrill, WI



Bonnie Brown, MD –
UW DFMCH



Jensena Carlson, MD –
UW DFMCH



Lee Dresang, MD –
UW DFMCH



Rachel Hartline, MD* – Upland
Hills Health, Dodgeville, WI



Caitlin Hill, MD –
Emplify Health, La Crosse, WI



Jillian Landeck, MD* –
UW DFMCH



Ryan Luellwitz, MD –
UW OB GYN



Allegra Ponshock, MD* –
Mile Bluff Med Ctr, Mauston, WI



Ryan Spencer, MD –
UW OB GYN



Cindy Stippich, CNM – Prairie
Ridge Health, Columbus, WI



Jenny White* –
UW DFMCH

Thank you to previous planning
committee members!

Korina Bauer, RN, CPM, LM
Rebecca Pfaff, MD
Shannan Stephens, MD

G R O W – W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



* Core Facilitation Team

Friendly Reminders

- Video appreciated
- Use chat function to ask questions or raise hand if able
- Mute microphone when not speaking
- Maintain confidentiality, no PHI
- Didactic will be recorded
- Mission is to empower those working in rural settings
- Our diversity of perspectives, specialties, practice scopes are our strength
- **"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."** - Henry Ford

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Announcements

- Next Session: Mar 24th
- Rural EMS OB Preparedness
 - James Small - Rural EMS Outreach Program Manager
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Wisconsin Office of Rural Health
- Case by **Craig Tschautscher, MD, MS, DRTM (RCSEd), FACEP, FAMPA**
 - Flight Physician, UW Med Flight
 - Director of Prehospital Resident Education
 - Assistant Professor (CHS)
 - Division of Prehospital Medicine

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Interested in sharing a case?

Email jennifer.white@fammed.wisc.edu

- Slide template shared, 10 min for details of case
- Priority to cases from rural and resource-limited settings
- No PHI
- Include on CV as a state presentation

Rural OB Case Presentation

Charles Pearce, MD

Upland Hills Health

02/24/2026

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Disclosures & Disclaimers

No Disclosures

PATIENT RELATIONSHIP DISCLAIMER

PLEASE NOTE that Project ECHO® case consultations do not create or otherwise establish a provider-patient relationship between any clinician and any patient whose case is being presented in a Project ECHO® setting.

Case Introduction

25yo G3P2002 @ 36.3 wks w/ no prenatal care until 32 wks w/ 3rd trimester US revealing for exencephaly/encephalocele, marked craniofacial abnormalities, clubbed feet and VSD; seen by MFM, plans for palliative care consultation and expected delivery in Madison.

Primary question for discussion: Neonatal palliative care in the 'lower' resourced Critical Access Hospital environment.

Obstetrical/Prenatal History:

G1: SVD, 2018, delivered in Guatemala

G2*: SVD, 2024, delivered at Meriter;
late presentation for prenatal care,
complex social situation noted

*h/o precipitous delivery

Past Medical History:

- Microcytic anemia h/o blood transfusions
- B12 Deficiency

Social History

- Home country: Guatemala, moved to US in 2024
- Spanish speaking only
- Concern for spousal abuse
- No tobacco/illicit drugs
- No food insecurity

Prenatal History

Late term establishment of care

12/17: Establish care w/ FP OB; US ordered (by LMP 32.0wks)

1/2: Follow up, no US obtained (34.2wks)

1/6: *US obtained*

1/8 MFM evaluation, plan for palliative care eval (35.1wks)

Prenatal History

MFM note from 1/8:

... Would do IOL if not labored by due date. Given poor prognosis- VD ok- consider no monitoring. CS for fetal distress would not change outcome. CS only if they desire a liveborn fetus. Additionally, there is increased risk of prolonged labor without pressure on the cervix of the bony skull. Given the neonatal prognosis, every effort is made to achieve a vaginal delivery unless there is a clear maternal indication for CS.

Labor History

1/17: 36.3wks

- 1301: EMS call for laboring pt
- 1305: L&D updated, on-call Ob/Gyne updated; team briefed
- 1307: EMS arrives on scene
- 1310: EMS updates ER
- 1315: EMS report, pt info provided, chart accessible
- 1318: Mother/Child arrive to the ER
- 1350: Mother to OR, Child to nursery

<p><u>Maternal Exam:</u></p> <p>AF, HR 94, BP 110/67, RR 16, Sats 98%</p> <p>Uncomfortable/tearful, not unwell</p> <p>RRR</p> <p>CTAB</p> <p>Minimal but ongoing vaginal bleeding (could not tolerate exam, went to OR for EUA, small vaginal tear)</p> <p>Firm fundus</p> <p>No LE edema</p> <p>Neuro intact</p>	<p><u>Maternal Labs & Imaging:</u></p> <p>8.3>11.3/34.7<301</p> <p>137/3.7 107/17 13/0.71 <86</p> <p>INR 0.99</p>
---	--

Neonatal Exam:

96.1, HR 160s, BP n/o, RR 48, Sats 98%

Exencephalic, able to visual gyri,
?cerebellar partial rotation

Unable to close left eye

Nares widely displaced w/ marked
midface cleft, easily visualized
epiglottis/arytenoids

Lungs clear w/ quickly resolved
respiratory distress

Abdomen soft, umbilical stump intact,
3V cord

Bilateral clubbed feet

Neonatal Labs & Imaging:

None obtained

Representative photos (not our pt):



Proposed diagnoses/management plan:

- Discussion with UW Neonatology to review in detail prognostics, expected course, any special considerations.
- Detailed discussion with Mother/Father re: above, parents wishes w/ shared decision-making
- Huddled with UHH L&D nursing staff prior to discussion w/ on-call FP on for newborns
- Conversation w/ UHH on-call FP, plan for no painful interventions, holding/swaddling/soothing, PRN lorazepam/morphine

Key learning points:

- Recognizing goals of care, quickly pivoting from neonatal resuscitation to aggressive/compassionate palliation.
- Community care plans provided to Mother/Parents, local EMS and Emergency Department.
- Small hospital setting can (did) provide world class care for complex child and mother.
- Sometimes the world pays attention.

Systems Issues/Area for Improvement:

- Emergency Services, Emergency Department awareness of high risk/complex case in community
- No IV access of mother
- Cord unclamped on presentation
- No care plan in Epic
- No EMS access to Spanish Interpreter*
- Low staffing (L&D side of house)
- Mother/Child L&D v Med/Surg/ICU

Team successes:

- EMS communicated mother information, permitting rapid Epic review
- Ob/Gyne was in-house, FP OB was in-house, PA student was former Doula/Spanish interpreter, L&D RN 25+ years experience
- On-call FP for newborns dual-hatted as system Palliative care/Hospice medical director
- No critically ill patients in the ER, no one checked in during the hour of managing mother/child

Open Discussion

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



4th trimester care in a rural setting



Lee Dresang, MD, Professor
University of Wisconsin Dept of Family Medicine and Community Health
February 24, 2026

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Disclosures & Disclaimers

- No disclosures

Learning Objectives

1. Summarize the Fourth Trimester Model of Postpartum care as a continuum of tailored care that begins with prenatal anticipatory guidance and continues to planning for ongoing prevention and chronic disease management past the 12-week postpartum visit
2. Identify ways fourth trimester care is unique in rural settings
3. Describe how rural providers can improve fourth trimester

What do we mean by “fourth trimester”?

- New paradigm for postpartum care
- Ongoing rather than a single visit
- Individualized rather than standard
- First contact within 3 weeks of delivery (many instances should be earlier given issues regarding pain, breastfeeding, mental health)
- Comprehensive postpartum visit no later than 12 weeks after birth

(ACOG 2018)



What is wrong with old model postpartum care?

- 40% of women do not attend a postpartum visit
- Lower rate of postpartum visits among people with limited resources (such as rural areas) and among black postpartum patients (Thiel de Bocanegra 2017); contributes to disparities
- Lack of care can lead to higher maternal and infant morbidity and mortality

(ACOG 2018)



What are consequences of poor fourth trimester care?

- The US is the only high-income country where maternal mortality has been increasing instead of decreasing over the last three decades.
- The US maternal mortality rate:
 - 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021 (Hoyert 2021)
 - 8.0 in 1990 (CDC 1995)
 - 18.8 in 2000 (MacDorman 2016)
- Black US maternal mortality rate:
 - 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021 (Hoyert 2021)
- Wisconsin state maternal mortality rate has increased over last 10 years (Wisconsin Office of Rural Health 2024)
- Higher Maternal Mortality for Wisconsin non-Hispanic Black, Asian and Latine women (Wisconsin Office of Rural Health 2024)



Photo courtesy of PACE MD

When do pregnancy related deaths occur?

Timing	Percentage of deaths
During pregnancy	22
Day of delivery	13
1-6 days postpartum	12
7-42 days postpartum	23
43-365 days postpartum	30

(Trost 2022)

What are top causes of pregnancy related deaths?

Cause	Percentage of deaths
Mental health condition	23
Hemorrhage	14
Cardiac condition	13
Infection	9
Embolism-thrombotic	9

(Trost 2022)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Why is fourth trimester care important?

- Sets the stage for long-term health and well-being



Fourth trimester begins during pregnancy

- Discuss purpose and value of post-partum care
- If scheduled delivery, can schedule postpartum visits prior to delivery



Comprehensive visit by 12 weeks

- Full physical, social and psychological assessment
- Address: Breastfeeding, infant care and feeding, sexuality, contraception, birth spacing/plans, sleep and fatigue, physical recovery from birth, chronic disease management and health maintenance
- Address: hypertensive disorders, high BMI, diabetes, thyroid disorder, renal disease, mood disorder
- Healthy diet and exercise
- Sleep 😊



Medicaid Expansion passes Wisconsin Assembly February 19, 2026!!!

- Postpartum Medicaid will cover 12 months rather than 60 days after delivery
- Wisconsin was next to last state to pass
- Passed state senate unanimously April 2025 but Speaker Robin Vos had not let out of committee
- When he did, bipartisan bill passed overwhelmingly the next day



Rural fourth trimester issues

- Access issues
- Hospital closures
- Workforce shortages
- Lower rates of depression screening (Interrante 2022)
- Lower rates of contraception counseling (Interrante 2022)



(ACOG 2018)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI

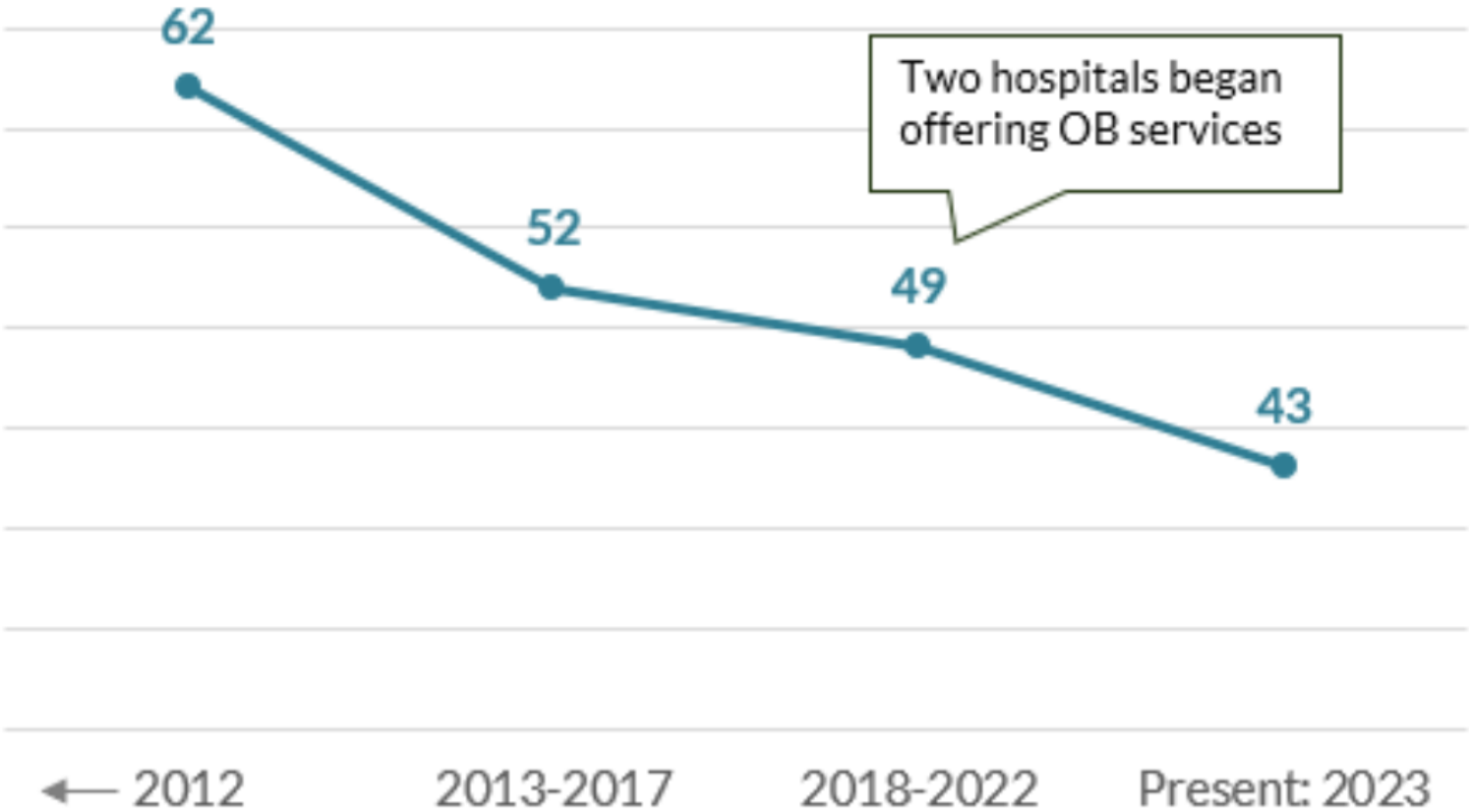


Access issues

- 2.3 million women of reproductive age (1 in 12 US women) live in counties with limited or no pregnancy care/postpartum services (March of Dimes 2020)

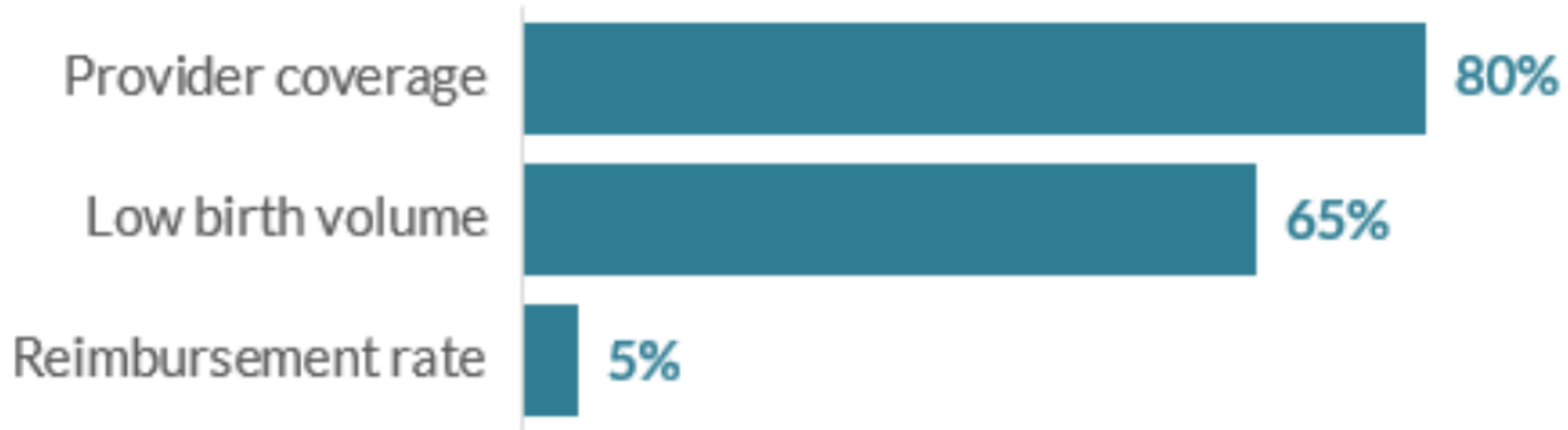


Number of Rural Hospitals Providing Obstetric Delivery Services



(Wisconsin Office of Rural Health 2024)

Percent of Rural Hospitals Reporting Reasons for Obstetric Unit Closure



Note: Values do not add up to 100% due to respondents selecting multiple factors
Source: Obstetric Services and Workforce survey, July 2023

(Wisconsin Office of Rural Health 2024)

Workforce issues

- Family physicians attend deliveries in over half rural hospitals (Wisconsin Office of Rural Health 2024)
- Nursing shortages



Rural fourth trimester issues

- 2019 rural postpartum parents, 2191 rural infants, 12,112 urban postpartum parents and 13,088 urban infants
- In rural areas: less likely to see an OB/GYN ($p = 0.002$) more emergency department (ED) visits ($p = 0.030$), more hospitalizations ($p = 0.041$), more frequently uninsurance ($p = 0.006$), and lost Medicaid coverage after pregnancy ($p = 0.006$).



(Handley 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Rural fourth trimester issues

- People who live in a rural area but deliver in an urban area have higher rates of postpartum severe maternal morbidity and mortality

(Hung 2025)



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



“Lost mothers” series

In the US every year:

- Hundreds of women who give birth do not survive their baby’s first 3 months of life.
- Hundreds of women who give birth attempt suicide in their baby’s first year of life.
- Thousands of women experience major medical complications including organ failure, brain damage, excessive bleeding, loss of reproductive organs, and infertility.
- Hundreds of thousands of women suffer from debilitating depression and anxiety.

(Hamilton 2018; Pro Publica 2023)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Lost mother: Joonyper Light

- 21yo G1P1 with history of heroin addiction
- Drug treatment program in pregnancy
- Postpartum difficult to get to rehab (rural challenge)
- Breastfeeding and afraid to take antidepressant
- 2 months after delivery, had relapse and husband Matt found dead of overdose on bathroom floor



(Pro Publica 2023)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Rural peripartum mental health

- The risk of perinatal depression is 21% higher among rural versus urban women (OR = 1.21, 95% CI: 1.05-1.41) adjusted for race, ethnicity, and maternal age (Nidey 2020)
- Women in rural areas are significantly less likely to seek care, be screened for or receive treatment for perinatal mental health conditions (Miller 2024)
- Rural women identify stressors including financial stress, lack of employment and affordable housing, extended family interconnections, gossip, isolation, loneliness and boredom (Bloom 2012)

Mental health and pregnancy related mortality

- 8.4% of pregnancy related deaths are suicides
- 2.9% of pregnancy related deaths are homicides



(Trost 2022)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Postpartum depression and anxiety

- Postpartum depression up to 10% (Paladine 2019)
- ACOG recommends all patients are screened at least once in the peripartum period for depression and anxiety using a standardized, validated tool
- The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) is most frequently used
- There is evidence that screening alone improves outcomes
- Initiation of treatment or referral to mental health providers can provide maximum benefit



(ACOG 2018)

Counseling for those at risk

- The USPSTF recommends that clinicians provide or refer pregnant and postpartum persons who are at increased risk of perinatal depression to counseling interventions – Class B Recommendation

(ACOG 2018)



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Medication Choice for Depression and Anxiety

- ACOG recommends that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors be used as first-line pharmacotherapy for perinatal depression and anxiety. Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors are reasonable alternatives.
- Pharmacotherapy should be individualized based on prior response to therapy (if applicable). If there is no pharmacotherapy history, sertraline or escitalopram are reasonable first-line medications. (Strong recommendation, low-quality evidence)
- ACOG recommends that benzodiazepines be avoided or prescribed sparingly as a treatment for perinatal anxiety. (Strong recommendation, moderate-quality evidence)



(ACOG No 5 2023)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Zuranolone (Zurzuvae)

- First FDA approved oral med for postpartum depression
- Approved August 2023
- Once per day for 14 days
- Neuroactive steroid acting on GABA_A receptors
- Side effect – Drowsiness, diarrhea, UTIs
- Cost -- \$16,000 for 14 day course



(Montgomery 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Postpartum depression screening at well child visits

- Prospective comparison of care as usual vs screening for postpartum depression at well child visits at 1, 3 and 6 months
- Fewer depressed patients at 9 months (OR 0.28; 95% CI 0.12-0.63)

(van der Zee-van den Berg 2017)



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Take advantage of well child visits

- IMPLICIT network – screen for postpartum depression at well child visits:

<https://www.fmec.net/implicit>



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Rural 4th trimester case

- 28yo G1P0@37w4d admitted with blood pressures 160s/100s. No HA/vision change RUQ pain. Cervix 6/80/0. FHT category 2 with mod variability and accels but variable decels. Labs normal except platelets of 80K.
- Gallup Indian Medical Center
- Communication with Albuquerque
- Decision deliver in Gallup



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Rural 4th trimester case

- Healthy 6#5oz girl APGARs 9,9
- Mag through 24 hours postpartum; pressures stable on nifedipine XL 60mg
- Platelets every 6 hours: 72K, 64K, 48K, 39K, 53K, 76K



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy

- In 2019, 13 percent of pregnant individuals had a hypertensive disorder (Ford 2022)
- Number one cause of maternal death in the US is cardiovascular (16.2%), number three is cardiomyopathy (12.5%) and number 6 is stroke (7%) (CDC 2013)



Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy

- Monitor for 72 hours inpatient or equivalent (48 hours plus BP check the next day in clinic)
- Clinic visit at 7-10 days
- Again at 4-6 weeks
- Also 6 months and 12 months



When do you readmit for postpartum hypertension?

- 16% of Eclampsia is beyond 48 hours postpartum
- Usually preceded by headache and other neurologic symptoms
- Negative consequences of readmission and of magnesium
- Focus on close blood pressure control outpatient (when possible)
- Consider Lasix 20mg po daily for 5 days
- Reserve magnesium therapy for patients with neurologic symptoms



(Cagino 2023)

Cardiovascular disease

- Cardiovascular health needs 4th trimester focus not only on hypertension but also factors including weight, blood sugar, depression, lactation and pre-pregnancy cardiovascular issues (Choi 2022)
- Adverse pregnancy outcomes (APOs) (Gestational hypertension, pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, preterm delivery, small for gestational age infant) increase risk for cardiovascular disease.
- APOs also associated with LVH, CKD and CVD after reproductive years.



(Wu 2021)

Breastfeeding in rural US

- Breastfeeding rates are significantly lower in rural than urban US (USPSTF 2025)
- In Georgia, breastfeeding initiation was approximately 15% lower (60% vs 75%) in rural vs urban areas persistent over 10 year study (Hamilton 2020)
- Double challenge of fewer face to face services and less access to broadband and virtual resources (Grubestic 2020)



Child benefits of breastfeeding

Lower rates of:

- asthma
- respiratory
- gastrointestinal tract infections
- infant mortality



(UPSTF 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Maternal benefits of breastfeeding

Lower rates of:

- ovarian cancer
- Hypertension
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus



(UPSTF 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Breastfeeding in rural US

- The USPSTF recommends providing interventions or referrals, during pregnancy and afterbirth, to support breastfeeding. (B recommendation)



(USPSTF 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Breastfeeding resources from USPSTF

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides resources for families and public health programs (<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/php/about/index.html>)
- The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development provides educational materials for patients (<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/breastfeeding>).
- The US Department of Labor provides a fact sheet on Fair Labor Standards Act protections for employees to pump breast milk at work (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/73-flsa-break-time-nursing-mothers>).
- The National Institutes of Health has created a drug and lactation database, LactMed, that contains information on drugs and other chemicals that may pass from breast milk to the infant (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK501922/>).



(UPSTF 2025)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Strategies to improve 4th trimester care

- Discuss prenatally
- Continuity of care
- Schedule appt prenatally or before leaving hospital
- Engage others to promote postpartum care: clinic reception workers, clinic MAs and RNs, intrapartum support staff, postpartum nurses, discharge planner, doula, family members
- Utilize technology with reminders, promotions (EMR, texts, calls)
- Consider web-based curricula, Home visitation, patient navigation, other novel approaches (Phillips 2023)

Hospital to clinic transition

- Maybe different EMR and different providers
- Potential to lose follow-up of important issues such as
 - Pregnant person: hypertension during labor, PPH with transfusion
 - Baby: hyperbili, low weight, breastfeeding struggle, heart murmur

(UPSTF 2025)



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Postpartum alert bands



G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Community partnerships

- Community Doula Alliance: <https://communitydoulaalliance.com/doulas/>
- La Leche League: <https://llli.org/>
- March of Dimes: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/postpartum>
- Nacer Sano: <https://nacersano.marchofdimes.org/>
- Postpartum support international: <https://postpartum.net/>
- Black Mamas Matter Alliance: <https://blackmamasmatter.org/>

Doulas

- DONA International: <https://www.dona.org/>
- The Doula Network: <https://www.thedoulanetwork.com/>
- National Black Doula Association:
<https://www.blackdoulas.org/>
- Planned Parenthood: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

15 minutes and a phone call

- Intervention: 15 minutes of anticipatory guidance followed by a phone call at 2 weeks
- Decrease in depression and increase breastfeeding duration through 6 months



(Howell 2012; Howell 2014)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



World Health Organization (WHO) recs

- World Health Organization (WHO) recommends evaluation of postpartum person and child dyad at 48-72 hours, 7-14 days and 6 weeks after delivery (WHO 2022)



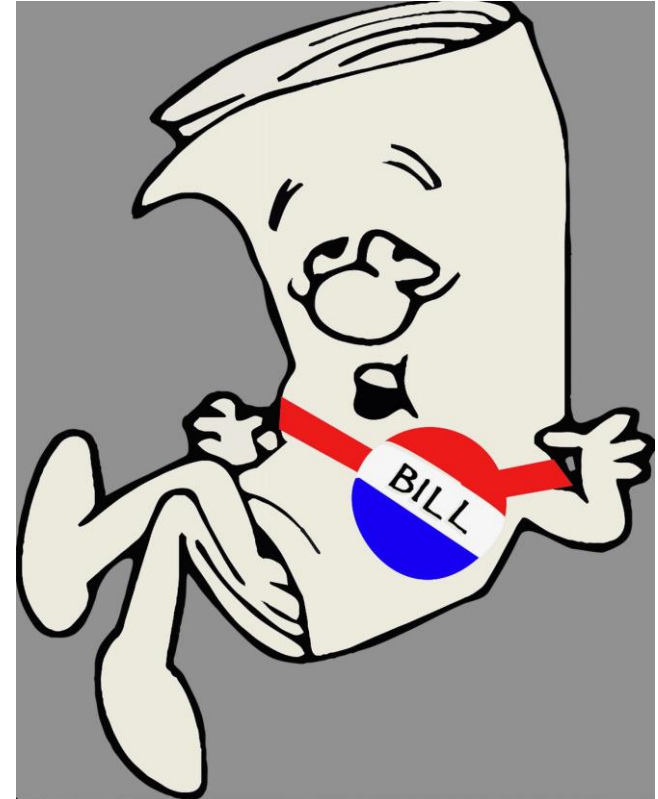
(Howell 2012; Howell 2014)

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI



Paid Family Medical Leave

- 27 percent of private sector workforce has paid family leave
- Thirteen states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington and Washington DC) have their own paid family medical leave (PFML) programs
- Federal legislation has been proposed – FAMILY ACT – would include 12 week of paid leave



Practice Recommendations (All SOR C)

- Paradigm shift is needed where postpartum care is an ongoing process rather than a single event.
- Address rural 4th trimester challenges
- ACOG recommends visit within 3 weeks and a complete assessment within 12 weeks of delivery
- WHO recommends visits at 3 days, 7-14 days and 6 weeks postpartum
- Utilize dyad care! Schedule birthing person visit with initial postpartum visits



References

- ACOG Committee Opinion No. 736: Optimizing Postpartum Care. Obstet Gynecol. 2018 May;131(5):e140-e150.
- ACOG Committee Opinion No. 757: Screening for Perinatal Depression. Obstet Gynecol. 2018 Nov;132(5):e208-e212.
- ACOG Committee Opinion No. 711: Opioid use and opioid use disorder in pregnancy. Obstet Gynecol 2017;130:e81–94.
- ACOG Clinical Practice Guideline No. 4. Screening and Diagnosis of Mental Health Conditions During Pregnancy and Postpartum. Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Jun 1;141(6):1232-1261.
- ACOG Clinical Practice Guideline No. 5. Treatment and Management of Mental Health Conditions During Pregnancy and Postpartum. Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Jun 1;141(6):1262-1288.
- ACOG Practice Bulletin Number 222. Gestational Hypertension and Preeclampsia. Obstetrics & Gynecology 2020; 135(6):p e237-e260.

References

- Acosta CD, Kurinczuk JJ, Lucas DN, Tuffnell DJ, et al; United Kingdom Obstetric Surveillance System. Severe maternal sepsis in the UK, 2011-2012: a national case-control study. PLoS Med. 2014 Jul 8;11(7):e1001672.
- Bloom TL, Bullock LF, Parsons L. Rural pregnant women's stressors and priorities for stress reduction. Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2012 Dec;33(12):813-9.
- Brown MC, Best KE, Pearce MS, Waugh J, Robson SC, Bell R. Cardiovascular disease risk in women with pre-eclampsia: systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur J Epidemiol. 2013; 28:1–19.
- Cagino K, Prabhu M, Sibai B. Is magnesium sulfate therapy warranted in all cases of late postpartum severe hypertension? A suggested approach to a clinical conundrum. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Dec;229(6):641-646.CDC. Differences in maternal mortality among black and white women--United States, 1990. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 1995 Jan 13;44(1):6-7, 13-4.
- CDC. About Gestational Diabetes and Postpartum Depression. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/about/gestational-diabetes-postpartum-depression.html>. Site visited January 5, 2025.
- Chainarong N, Deevongkij K, Petpichetchian C. Secondary postpartum hemorrhage: Incidence, etiologies, and clinical courses in the setting of a high cesarean delivery rate. PLoS One. 2022 Mar 1;17(3):e0264583.
- Choi E, Kazzi B, Varma B, Ortengren AR, Minhas AS, Vaught AJ, Bennett WL, Lewey J, Michos ED. The Fourth Trimester: a Time for Enhancing Transitions in Cardiovascular Care. Curr Cardiovasc Risk Rep. 2022;16(12):219-229.

References

- Critchley CJC. Physical Therapy Is an Important Component of Postpartum Care in the Fourth Trimester. *Phys Ther*. 2022 May 5;102(5):pzac021.
- Conde-Agudelo A, Rosas-Bermúdez A, Kafury-Goeta AC. Birth spacing and risk of adverse perinatal outcomes: a meta-analysis. *JAMA*. 2006 Apr 19;295(15):1809-23.
- Dol J, Hughes B, Bonet M, Dorey R, et al. Timing of maternal mortality and severe morbidity during the postpartum period: a systematic review. *JBIEvid Synth*. 2022 Sep 1;20(9):2119-2194.
- Dossou M, Debost-Legrand A, Déchelotte P, Lémery D, Vendittelli F. Severe secondary postpartum hemorrhage: a historical cohort. *Birth*. 2015 Jun;42(2):149-55. doi: 10.1111/birt.12164.
- Durbin DR, Hoffman BD; COUNCIL ON INJURY, VIOLENCE, AND POISON PREVENTION. Child Passenger Safety. *Pediatrics*. 2018 Nov;142(5):e20182461.
- Ford ND, Cox S, Ko JY, et al. Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy and Mortality at Delivery Hospitalization — United States, 2017–2019. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:585–591.
- Froeliger A, Deneux-Tharoux C, Loussert L, et al; TRAAP2 study group. Prevalence and risk factors for postpartum depression 2 months after cesarean delivery: a prospective multicenter study. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2024 Oct 30:S0002-9378(24)01103-7.

References

- Greenwell NK. Traffic Safety Facts Research Note: National Child Restraint Use Special Study (Report No. DOT HS 812 157). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); June 2015.
- Grubestic TH, Durbin KM. The complex geographies of telelactation and access to community breastfeeding support in the state of Ohio. PLoS One. 2020 Nov 24;15(11):e0242457.
- Hamilton N, Stevens N, Lillis T, Adams N. The fourth trimester: toward improved postpartum health and healthcare of mothers and their families in the United States. J Behav Med. 2018 Oct;41(5):571-576.
- Hamilton WN, Tarasenko YN. Breastfeeding Practices in Georgia: Rural-Urban Comparison and Trend Analyses Based on 2004-2013 PRAMS Data. J Rural Health. 2020 Jan;36(1):17-26.
- Handley SC, Interrante JD, Gregory EF, Kozhimannil KB. Rural-urban differences in health care access for postpartum parent and infant dyads. J Rural Health. 2025 Jun;41(3):e70062.
- Howell EA, Balbierz A, Wang J, Parides M, Zlotnick C, Leventhal H. Reducing postpartum depressive symptoms among black and Latina mothers: a randomized controlled trial. Obstet Gynecol. 2012 May;119(5):942-9.
- Howell EA, Bodnar-Deren S, Balbierz A, Parides M, Bickell N. An intervention to extend breastfeeding among black and Latina mothers after delivery. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Mar;210(3):239.e1-5.
- Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2021. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2023. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:124678>
- Hung P, Gao H, Liu J, Rudisill AC, Boghossian NS, Campbell BA, Workman L, Ma Y, Zhang J. Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality After Delivery Hospitalization Among Rural Residents Bypassing Local Care for Urban Hospitals. JAMA Netw Open. 2025 Nov 3;8(11):e2544522.

References

- Interrante JD, Admon LK, Carroll C, Henning-Smith C, Chastain P, Kozhimannil KB. Association of Health Insurance, Geography, and Race and Ethnicity With Disparities in Receipt of Recommended Postpartum Care in the US. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2022 Oct 7;3(10):e223292.
- Isaacs D. The fourth trimester. *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2018 Nov;54(11):1174-1175.
- Janevic T, Howell FM, Burdick M, Nowlin S, et al. Racism and Postpartum Blood Pressure in a Multiethnic Prospective Cohort. *Hypertension*. 2025 Jan 9.
- MacDorman MF, Declercq E, Cabral H, Morton C. Recent Increases in the U.S. Maternal Mortality Rate: Disentangling Trends From Measurement Issues. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2016 Sep;128(3):447-455.
- Mehta A, Srinivas SK. The Fourth Trimester: 12 Weeks Is Not Enough. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2021 May 1;137(5):779-781.
- Miller ML, Dupree J, Monette MA, Lau EK, Peipert A. Health Equity and Perinatal Mental Health. *Curr Psychiatry Rep*. 2024 Sep;26(9):460-469.
- Montgomery J, Hoffman A. Zuranolone (Zurzuvae) for the Treatment of Postpartum Depression. *Am Fam Physician*. 2025 May;111(5):465-466.
- Moon RY, Carlin RF, Hand I; TASK FORCE ON SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME and THE COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN. Evidence Base for 2022 Updated Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment to Reduce the Risk of Sleep-Related Infant Deaths. *Pediatrics*. 2022 Jul 1;150(1):e2022057991.
- Nidey N, Tabb KM, Carter KD, Bao W, Strathearn L, Rohlman DS, Wehby G, Ryckman K. Rurality and Risk of Perinatal Depression Among Women in the United States. *J Rural Health*. 2020 Jan;36(1):9-16.
- O'Connor E, Senger CA, Henninger ML, Coppola E, Gaynes BN. Interventions to Prevent Perinatal Depression: Evidence Report and Systematic Review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. *JAMA*. 2019 Feb 12;321(6):588-601. doi: 10.1001/jama.2018.20865.

References

- Paladine HL, Blenning CE, Strangas Y. Postpartum Care: An Approach to the Fourth Trimester. *Am Fam Physician*. 2019 Oct 15;100(8):485-491.
- Phillips SEK, Celi AC, Wehbe A, Kaduthodil J, Zera CA. Mobilizing the fourth trimester to improve population health: interventions for postpartum transitions of care. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2022 Dec 24:S0002-9378(22)02587-X.
- Pro Publica. Lost mothers: Maternal care and preventable deaths. <https://www.propublica.org/series/lost-mothers>. Visited April 26, 2025.
- Rodriguez AN, Patel S, Macias D, Morgan J, Kraus A, Spong CY. Timing of Emergency Postpartum Hospital Visits in the Fourth Trimester. *Am J Perinatol*. 2021 Mar;38(4):319-325.
- Savage JS. A Fourth Trimester Action Plan for Wellness. *J Perinat Educ*. 2020 Apr 1;29(2):103-112
- Tepper NK, Boulet SL, Whiteman MK, Monsour M, et al. Postpartum venous thromboembolism: incidence and risk factors. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2014 May;123(5):987-996.Thiel de Bocanegra H, Braughton M, Bradsberry M, Howell M, Logan J, Schwarz EB. Racial and ethnic disparities in postpartum care and contraception in California's Medicaid program. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2017 Jul;217(1):47.e1-47.e7.
- Trost SL, Beauregard J, Njie F, et al. Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data From Maternal Mortality Review Committees in 36 US States, 2017-2019. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Health and Human Services; 2022.
- Tully KP, Stuebe AM, Verbiest SB. The fourth trimester: a critical transition period with unmet maternal health needs. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2017 Jul;217(1):37-41.

References

- US Preventive Services Task Force; Nicholson WK, Silverstein M, Wong JB, Chelmow D, et al. Primary Care Behavioral Counseling Interventions to Support Breastfeeding: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. JAMA. 2025 Apr 8. doi: 10.1001/jama.2025.3650
- van der Zee-van den Berg AI, Boere-Boonekamp MM, Groothuis-Oudshoorn CGM, IJzerman MJ, Haasnoot-Smallegange RME, Reijneveld SA. Post-Up Study: Postpartum Depression Screening in Well-Child Care and Maternal Outcomes. Pediatrics 2017 Oct;140(4):e20170110. doi: 10.1542/peds.2017-0110.
- Wisner KL, Perel JM, Peindl KS, Hanusa BH, Piontek CM, Findling RL. Prevention of postpartum depression: a pilot randomized clinical trial. Am J Psychiatry. 2004 Jul;161(7):1290-2.
- Wisconsin Office of Rural Health. Obstetric Delivery Services and Workforce in Rural Wisconsin Hospitals 2024.
- World health organization. WHO recommendations on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal experience. 2022 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240044074>
- Wu P, Park K, Gulati M. The Fourth Trimester: Pregnancy as a Predictor of Cardiovascular Disease. Eur Cardiol. 2021 Sep 3;16:e31.
- Young LW, Ounpraseuth ST, Merhar SL, Hu Z, Simon AE, et al ACT NOW Collaborative. Eat, Sleep, Console Approach or Usual Care for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal. N Engl J Med. 2023 Jun 22;388(25):2326-2337.

Thank you!!!

G R O W - W I
GATHERING THE RURAL OB WORKFORCE IN WI

