

Maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates continue to rise, with significant racial and ethnic disparities. Black non-Hispanic birthing people experience pregnancy-related mortality rates that are three times higher than their non-Hispanic white counterparts. To improve outcomes and address these disparities, perinatal and neonatal professionals must implement evidence-based, well-designed quality improvement initiatives tailored to their site's unique needs.

The Maryland Patient Safety Center offers a yearlong Perinatal & Neonatal Quality and Safety Fellowship, designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain a perinatal quality improvement project that improves outcomes and reduces disparities at their site.

Fellowship Details

- Participants will identify a perinatal quality or safety issue affecting their unit.
- Over the course of one year, fellows will attend monthly group meetings and/or individual support sessions to guide them through developing and implementing their quality improvement project.
- Fellows will build a lasting quality infrastructure within their unit to support ongoing improvements.

Fellowship Structure and Support

Throughout the fellowship, participants will engage in monthly meetings and receive individualized support covering essential topics such as:

- **Refining Your QI Question:** Clarifying your goals and defining what you're truly aiming to improve.
- **Advancing Equity:** Incorporating strategies to address disparities and promote equitable care.
- **Finding and Reviewing Evidence:** Identifying and applying evidence-based practices to guide your project.
- **Building Your Team:** Identifying key stakeholders and assembling a collaborative team.
- **Engaging Staff and Leaders:** Motivating colleagues and leadership to support your improvement efforts.
- **Visualizing Data:** Creating effective tables and graphs to present your findings clearly.
- **Analyzing Data for Improvement:** Measuring progress and evaluating outcomes.
- **Key Implementation Strategies:** Ensuring your project is actionable and sustainable.
- **Mentorship in Abstract and Manuscript Development:** Guidance on preparing your project for presentation or publication.

The fellowship is limited to **ten participants** to ensure personalized support. It will run from **September 2025 through June 2026**.

In addition to designing and implementing their quality improvement projects, fellows will engage in assigned core readings and participate in monthly discussions on quality and patient safety to enhance their learning experience.

Candidate Qualifications and Application Requirements

- Perinatal/neonatal professionals (nurse, provider, lactation consultant, social worker, etc.) interested in quality and safety.
 - Have support from your leader to dedicate time to developing and implementing a project.
 - Have a topic or area related to perinatal/neonatal quality and safety that is either already identified through data or have been identified anecdotally. If you have identified an issue anecdotally you should be prepared to work towards using data to support your thoughts that a gap/opportunity exists.
 - Be able to attend a four-hour in person kick off session at the Maryland Patient Safety Center in September 2025.
 - Attend a one-two hours virtual meeting per month.
 - Willingness to commit to focusing at a minimum four hours per month to the project. Outside of fellowship meetings, work will need to be done on the project outside of the meeting time for the project to be successful.
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Virtual Info Session:

- Date: May 7, 2025
- Time: 12:00-1:00 pm
- [Register for the info session](#)

Application Materials

- Resume or CV
- Completed Application

Application Timeline

- Application Due May 31, 2025
- Fellows notified by June 30, 2025
- Fellowship to start September 2025

Cost

- MPSC Members: \$775
- Non-Members: \$1,800 (Includes registration fee for MPSC 2026)
- Includes two full-day in-person sessions with lunch, plus seven monthly one-hour virtual sessions, and a minimum of two personal consultations.

This fellowship is an invaluable opportunity for perinatal professionals dedicated to advancing health equity and improving care delivery.

Application

Applicant Information

Full Name and Credentials: _____

Email: _____

Organization: _____

Years in the perinatal/neonatal specialty: _____

Leader/Sponsor Information

Full Name and Credentials: _____

Title _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please describe the quality/safety topic you have identified and hope to address during the fellowship:

Please describe any clinical, professional, and academic experiences which you believe will have prepared you for this fellowship:
