



CALL FOR PAPERS

Wanted: Manuscripts on Obstetric Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety

For possible publication in the *Journal for Healthcare Quality*
Special Issue (September/October 2009)

According to recent initial data from the National Center for Health Statistics, a record number of babies were born in the United States during 2007—the highest number in the past 50 years. Furthermore, pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium constitute the second leading cause of hospital discharges annually. With as many as 2,800 hospitals in the country having obstetric units, quality and patient safety for this population are significant issues.

The high volume of obstetrics patients and the vulnerability to error in the provision of their care have prompted the *Journal for Healthcare Quality* to plan a special issue on obstetric healthcare quality and patient safety to be published in September/October 2009. This special issue provides a forum for healthcare providers and researchers to share their work related to important aspects of obstetric care including

- discussions of local, regional, or national perinatal safety initiatives
- utilization of standardized terminology for the interpretation of electronic fetal monitoring
- methods for increasing collaboration, teamwork, and communication to reduce errors and improve outcomes
- processes involved in the use of simulation and drills for improving obstetric safety
- descriptions of methods for adapting principles of high-reliability organizations to services and programs for pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period
- programs that promote quality and safety in the integrated management of pregnancy and childbirth.

The journal's editors are currently soliciting manuscripts for what promises to be an exciting and stimulating issue. Please let us hear from you if you are interested in submitting a manuscript for possible publication in this special issue on obstetric healthcare quality and safety. If you have any questions or want to discuss your ideas, please contact Pam Scarrow by e-mail or phone (see contact information below). Also, please review *JHQ's Information for Authors* at <http://www.nahq.org/journal/resource/> prior to submitting your manuscript. The deadline for submitting manuscripts is **January 16, 2009**.

Pamela K. Scarrow, CPHQ
Special Issue Editor: Obstetric Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety
Journal for Healthcare Quality
Phone: 202/863-2538; e-mail: pscarrow@acog.org