MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH: PERINATAL DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY

READINESS

Every Clinical Care Setting

- Identify mental health screening tools to be made available in every clinical setting (outpatient OB clinics and inpatient facilities).
- Establish a response protocol and identify screening tools for use based on local resources.
- Educate clinicians and office staff on use of the identified screening tools and response protocol.
- Identify an individual who is responsible for driving adoption of the identified screening tools and response protocol.

RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

Every Woman

- Obtain individual and family mental health history (including past and current medications) at intake, with review and update as needed.
- Conduct validated mental health screening during appropriately timed patient encounters, to include both during pregnancy and in the postpartum period.
- Provide appropriately timed perinatal depression and anxiety awareness education to women and family members or other support persons.
RESPONSE

Every Case

- Initiate a stage-based response protocol for a positive mental health screen.
- Activate an emergency referral protocol for women with suicidal/homicidal ideation or psychosis.
- Provide appropriate and timely support for women, as well as family members and staff, as needed.
- Obtain follow-up from mental health providers on women referred for treatment. This should include the necessary release of information forms.

REPORTING/SYSTEMS LEARNING

Every Clinical Care Setting

- Establish a non-judgmental culture of safety through multidisciplinary mental health rounds.
- Perform a multidisciplinary review of adverse mental health outcomes.
- Establish local standards for recognition and response in order to measure compliance, understand individual performance, and track outcomes.