

Quarterly
**PERINATAL
NEWSLETTER**



Quarter 2 - 2026

Welcome to the Perinatal Quarterly Newsletter! We hope you enjoy the shared information. If you have any information you would like to share or questions about the content, please contact Emily Belinski at ebelinski@uphcs.org.

The UP Perinatal Quality Collaborative meets virtually for bimonthly meetings. **Meetings occur the third Tuesday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET** (subject to change).

Upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**
- **Tuesday, August 18, 2026**

You must register for each bimonthly meeting you wish to attend.

[Register for a Virtual Meeting](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing your unique information about joining the meeting virtually.

The Zoom meeting link and agenda are sent after registering.

To regularly receive meeting registration links, agendas, and minutes, please email cbalmat@uphcs.org.

Events

Town Hall

The R1PQC will again host a Community and Family Town Hall, on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, from 4-6 p.m. ET/3-5 p.m. CT. The main event will be held in Marquette with satellite locations in Houghton and Newberry. Town halls inform R1PQC and state priorities for advancing health outcomes for birthing people, infants, and families.



Save the Date

COMMUNITY & FAMILY TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026
4PM-6PM ET · 3PM-5PM CT
HOUGHTON · MARQUETTE · NEWBERRY

A community conversation about healthy births, families, and communities, for Upper Peninsula families and community members!

No cost to attend · Dinner will be provided · Registration coming soon!

REGION 1 UPHCS

In Partnership with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Division of Maternal & Infant Health

The poster features a collage of images showing diverse families and individuals, including a man holding a baby, a woman with a child, and a group of people sitting together.

2026 AWHONN Michigan Spring Conference

Friday, May 15, 2026
Frankenmuth, MI

Topics include Trauma-Informed Maternity Care, Better Care for Substance-Affected Pregnancies, Diverse Tools for Navigating Labor, and Ethical Lessons for Nurses.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Michigan Breastfeeding Network Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings

Thursday, May 21, 12 - 1 p.m. ET
Virtual

Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings occur on the third Thursday of each month from 12-1 p.m. ET and are intended as a space for MIBFN, local breastfeeding supporters, and statewide partners to share, listen, and learn alongside each other as a way of informing each of the MIBFN's statewide and local breastfeeding support strategies. Attendees hold one another accountable for ensuring that this, and all breastfeeding spaces, are safe for the families and breastfeeding supporters who are most marginalized by our current systems. [Learn more and register here.](#)

U.P. Breastfeeding Network Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 10 a.m. ET
Virtual

The UP Breastfeeding Network is an interconnected group of birth and breastfeeding supporters that can help to educate and support families, providers, and organizations that serve families

during the prenatal and postpartum period throughout the UP.

All are welcome to attend the Network's meetings — please email vicki@mibreastfeeding.org to be added to the Zoom invite.

Michigan Centering Consortium

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Midland, MI

Hosted by the Centering Healthcare Institute, this consortium is an opportunity for Centering sites to share, learn, and receive support.

Learn more about the Centering Healthcare Institute at centeringhealthcare.org

[Register for the Consortium here.](#)

Maternal Infant Health Summit

July 15-16, 2026

Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, MI

The 9th annual Maternal Infant Health Summit (MIHS) provides a unique opportunity for multidisciplinary collaboration, convening both National and Statewide stakeholders working to advance maternal, infant, and family health. This inclusive opportunity provides a stage to exchange innovative ideas and stories, uplifting families and communities as changemakers and leaders. Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions and the R1PQC are offering scholarships (ranging from \$500-\$800) for collaborative members attending the MIHS 2026.

Summit registration is full, but a waitlist is available for those still interested in attending.

[Learn more and register to be added to the waitlist here.](#)

[Apply for a R1PQC MIHS Scholarship here.](#)

Native Communities Learning Project *We Are Still Here* Webinar Series

May 27, June 24, July 22, 2026

Virtual

The Alliance for Early Success is offering an 8-part series to address knowledge gaps in Native history, governance, culture and community. Information about upcoming webinars, and

recordings of past webinars, are available [here](#).

MI AIM Rural Birthing Hospital Webinar

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Virtual

This virtual educational session is designed specifically for clinicians (Nurses, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives) serving rural birthing hospitals. This webinar focuses on strengthening implementation of the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Hypertension and Obstetric Hemorrhage patient safety bundles within rural health care settings. Participants will gain practical, actionable strategies to support consistent bundle adherence and improve maternal outcomes across the continuum of care.

This educational opportunity is ideal for clinicians seeking practical tools to enhance team readiness, improve coordination of care, and advance maternal safety in rural birthing hospitals.

[Register here](#).

Announcements

R1PQC and U.P. Health Care Solutions Updates

- CIRCLE UP (Connecting Innovations in Rural Care, Learning, and Equity in the Upper Peninsula) is now accepting patients. CIRCLE UP is a pilot project to provide U.P. birthing persons who have OUD/SUD with in-person OB care, virtual MOUD, and virtual mental health care, plus support from a UPMOM program. To enroll in the program, a person must first become a patient of OB/GYN Associates of Marquette, P.C.
- UPHCS Deputy Director Katrina Keough provided regional data and uplifted the work being done by the Region 1 Perinatal Quality Collaborative for a March 17, 2026, Michigan House Public Health Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on maternal and infant health investments in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services FY 26-27 budget.
- UPHCS Deputy Director Katrina Keough created a final draft Implementation Toolkit for the Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Patients with Substance Use Disorder Patient Safety Bundle, the final version of which will be submitted to MI AIM leadership.
- UPHCS/R1PQC staff contributed to a UP Home Visiting Network Quality Improvement Effort, resulting in the development of updated promotional materials (a one-page handout, a tri-fold brochure, and a rack card) that will be provided to referral partners with the goal to provide families with a cursory understanding of what home visiting is and differences between the evidence-based programs available across the UP.



R1PQC Workgroup Updates

The R1PQC convenes several workgroups on special topics related to perinatal health. Each meets either bimonthly or quarterly. All meetings are virtual, with the Maternal and Family Wellness Workgroup also having an in-person option. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please reach out to Emily Belinski at ebelinski@uphcs.org.

- The Maternal and Family Wellness Workgroup will host presentations on “Healing Arts for Perinatal Mental Health” and “Craniosacral Therapy Assisting in Perinatal Care” during its remaining two Lunch & Learn meetings this fiscal year. The group is also working with Postpartum Support International and the R1PQC’s Grief and Bereavement workgroup to bring an in-person “Perinatal Loss: Clinical and Supportive Care” training to the region (more details below). Meets 12 - 1 p.m. ET on June 8, 2026 and August 10, 2026.
- The Perinatal Substance Use Disorder Workgroup hosted a presentation on Child Protective Services at its most recent meeting and learned about Postpartum Support International’s “Perinatal Substance Use Disorder Advanced Training” from a PQC member who attended the training with PQC support. The next meeting will include presentations on the HT2 behavioral health screening app and the Incentives2Quit smoking cessation app. Meets 9-10 p.m. ET on June 25 and August 27, 2026.
- The Care Coordination Workgroup is planning in-person meet-and-greet events to facilitate integration of care and cross-referrals between doulas and home visitors. Meets 3–4 p.m. ET on June 2 and September 1, 2026.
- The Child Passenger Safety Workgroup is prioritizing support for existing Child Passenger Safety Technicians by providing CEUs and holding car seat check events. A newsletter for technicians was recently launched by one of the group’s members. The R1PQC funds mileage for current techs to attend continuing education training and car seat check events and is also currently offering scholarships for new tech certification training (more details below). Meets quarterly with dates and times determined by poll.
- The Grief and Bereavement Workgroup is working with Postpartum Support International and the R1PQC’s Maternal and Family Wellness workgroup to bring an in-person “Perinatal Loss: Clinical and Supportive Care” training to the region (more details below). The workgroup is also planning additional training targeted at U.P. hospitals. Meets 3–4 p.m. ET on May 14, July 9, and September 10, 2026.
- The Family Planning Workgroup is looking for members. If you are interested in participating, or in facilitating the group, contact ebelinski@uphcs.org.

Proposed Training: Perinatal Loss - Clinical and Supportive Care

The R1PQC is working with Postpartum Support International to bring a Perinatal Loss: Clinical and Supportive Care in-person training to the Upper Peninsula. Sixty participants are needed to hold the training, and the R1PQC needs your feedback. If you are or might be interested in the training, please complete the survey below.

- [Visit the Postpartum Support International website for more information about the training](#)
- [Complete the R1PQC Interest Survey here](#)

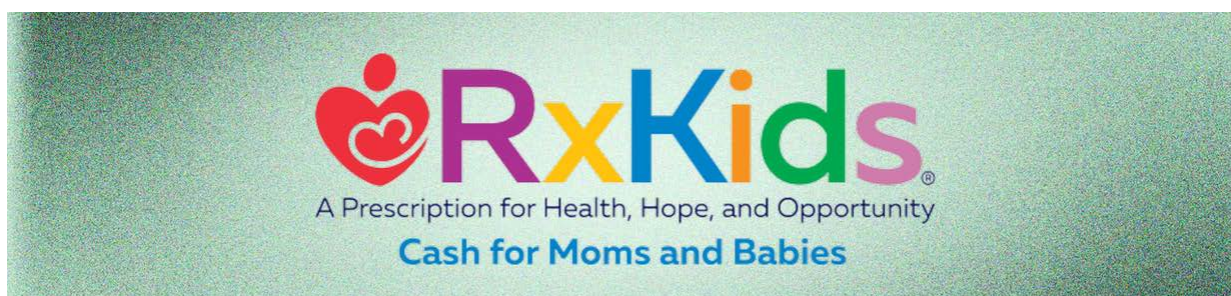
Child Passenger Safety Technician Mileage Reimbursement

The R1PQC provides the opportunity for mileage reimbursement to Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) in the Upper Peninsula for travel related to car seat check events and CPST trainings. [Reimbursement request form.](#)

Child Passenger Safety New Technician Training Scholarships

The R1PQC is offering scholarships to support Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) training for those living in and serving the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If you are interested in a scholarship to become a new technician, [please complete this form.](#)

[Learn more about becoming a CPST, and find upcoming CPST trainings, here.](#)



Rx Kids Updates

Rx Kids expanded its perinatal cash prescription program across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Learn more about [Rx Kids here](#) and learn more about Rx Kids in the U.P. at the [Superior Health Foundation Rx Kids webpage here](#).

Invitation to Participate in a Study on Cannabis Use During Pregnancy and Postpartum

The MAMA-CARE team at MSU is conducting a research study to better understand how healthcare providers across Michigan are delivering care to pregnant and postpartum people who use cannabis. As part of the first phase of this study, we are conducting qualitative interviews with health care providers to explore their experiences, practices, and training needs related to supporting this population. To determine your eligibility for an interview, [please complete this brief \(2-minute\) screening survey](#).

If you are eligible and selected to participate in a qualitative interview, you will receive a \$50 gift card as a thank-you for your time upon completing the interview. Your insights will help inform future provider training and support strategies to improve care for pregnant and postpartum individuals who use cannabis. Participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for considering this opportunity! If you have any questions, please contact Kaylee Fisher at fisher469@msu.edu.

WIC Food Types and Amounts Updated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has updated the types and amounts of foods available to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program participants. [View the new \(effective March 1, 2026\) food guides, and other resources](#).

Public Comment Open on Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant

Public Comment is open until May 15, 2026, on the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services block Grant State Action Plan for fiscal year 2027. Title V includes funding to support improvements to perinatal health. The state action plan priorities include postpartum visits, perinatal care, breastfeeding, infant safe sleep, oral health care for pregnant women, and contraceptive care. [View the state action plan here](#) and submit comments to MDHHS-MCHBlockGrant@michigan.gov by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 15.

Infant Product Recalls

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns consumers to immediately stop using the following products:

- [LullaBear Choco Bear Infant Support Cushions](#)
- [Goregent Infant Walkers](#)
- [HALO Dream Magic Sleepsuits](#)

Resources

Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars

Monthly education series to address systemic barriers while equipping peer counselors, maternity care nurses, and home visitors with practical strategies to foster equitable breastfeeding support. These on demand webinars are available for six types of continuing education credit.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



Resources for Clinicians and Parents on Breastfeeding & Substance Use Disorder

From the Maine State Breastfeeding Coalition:

- For health care providers: [Guidelines for the Use of Human Milk in the Context of Substance Use Disorder](#)
- For families: [Breastfeeding and Substance Use: A Parent Resource](#)

The National Institute for Children's Health Quality: Creating a Culture of Respectful Maternal Care (RMC)

[Review the toolkit and webinar here.](#)

Medicaid Work Requirements and Access to Perinatal Care

This article from the Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health clarifies the current status of Medicaid work requirements and exemptions for pregnant and recently postpartum birthing persons. [Read more here.](#)

Job Postings

- **Registered Nurse, OB PRN**

UPHS-Bell, Ishpeming

View details [here](#)

- **Certified Nurse Midwife**

UPHS-Bell, Ishpeming

View details [here](#)

- **Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) Laborist**

UPHS-Marquette

View details [here](#)

- **OB/GYN Physician in Escanaba, MI**

OSF HealthCare - Escanaba

View details [here](#)

- **Medical Assistant - OB/GYN**

MyMichigan Health - Sault Ste. Marie

View details [here](#)

- **Physician - Obstetrics & Gynecology**

Marshfield Medical Center - Dickinson, Iron Mountain

View details [here](#)

- **Licensed Social Worker or Registered Nurse (Home Visiting)**

Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft District Health Department

View details [here](#)



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