

# WyPQC NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2026

## Share Your Ideas with WyPQC!

The WyPQC is looking for input on what NEW prenatal Quality Improvement (QI) initiative to support. If you are already working on a prenatal QI topic or want to start a new prenatal QI project, we would love to talk about how we can support your work. If you have ideas, projects, or skills to share in maternal and infant care, email us anytime at [addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov](mailto:addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov); we'd love to collaborate!

## KEY UPDATES:

### Women and Infant Health Funding Opportunity

The Women and Infant Health Program has opened its 2026-2027 Funding Request for Applications and is seeking Wyoming-based projects focused on improving postpartum care and infant safe sleep practices. Wyoming organizations interested in supporting women and infants are encouraged to contact [natalie.hudanick1@wyo.gov](mailto:natalie.hudanick1@wyo.gov) for more information. Applications close **March 31, 2026 at 6:00 PM MT**.

### Upcoming 2026 CDC mPINC Survey

The CDC's 2026 Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey is expected to launch later this spring. The mPINC survey assesses maternity care practices nationwide and provides hospitals with individualized, confidential feedback to help strengthen breastfeeding support and improve maternity care policies. Hospitals can prepare now by updating their mPINC point of contact or by reporting status changes via email to [mPINC@cdc.gov](mailto:mPINC@cdc.gov).

### Child Health Funding Proposal: Applications Under Review

The application period for the 2026 Child Health Funding Proposal has officially closed. Proposals are currently under review, with scoring and applicant notifications anticipated by the **beginning of March**, ahead of funding implementation in April.

### GLP-1 Use & Pregnancy: Emerging Evidence

A recent JAMA study found that individuals who discontinued GLP-1 weight-loss medications before or during pregnancy experienced greater gestational weight gain and higher risks of preterm birth and gestational diabetes. As use of these medications increases nationally, providers are encouraged to support proactive counseling and care coordination for patients of reproductive age.

## Understanding Variation in C-Section Rates

C-sections account for more than 32% of births in the U.S., and recent data analysis shows rates vary significantly across hospitals, often influenced by institutional practices. These findings highlight ongoing opportunities for hospital-based quality improvement efforts focused on evidence-based labor and delivery care.

## Strengthening Postpartum Blood Pressure Monitoring

Health systems are implementing structured postpartum blood pressure monitoring programs to reduce maternal morbidity and improve follow-up care. Early results show high patient satisfaction and improved engagement, reinforcing the importance of standardized postpartum care pathways.

## Innovation in Rural Maternity Care: Supporting Critical Access Hospitals

A new report highlights how Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are innovating to sustain and improve maternity services in rural communities. The brief explores care delivery models, workforce strategies, and partnerships that help maintain access to quality obstetric care despite ongoing financial and staffing challenges.

## Innovations in NICU Care

New advances in neonatal care include FDA-approved MRI systems designed specifically for NICU settings to reduce transport risks, as well as emerging tools to minimize **environmental stress for preterm infants**. Continued innovation supports safer, developmentally appropriate care for the most vulnerable newborns.



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## WyPQC HOSPITAL SPOTLIGHT:

### Star Valley Medical Center - MOMS+ in Action

Star Valley kick-started their universal opt-out Naloxone distribution approach by providing all staff with their own personal Naloxone kits! This proactive strategy to offer the overdose-reversal agent to all patients is not just evidence-based for overdose-prevention but also reduces stigma, normalizes life-saving conversations, and is supported by state-level standing orders. Nice work, Star Valley MOMS+ team!

## Award-Winning Innovation in Sheridan

Sheridan Memorial Hospital continues to lead the way in maternal care, with two Women's Health nurses becoming the hospital's first Certified Birth Professionals through the [Spinning Babies](#) program. This nationally recognized training focuses on physiologic birth techniques that promote comfort, balance, and optimal positioning during labor.



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## EVENTS:

### WyPQC Webinar: Withdrawal Management & MOUD in Pregnancy and Postpartum

 **March 3rd | 12:00 - 1:00 PM MT (Virtual)**

Join WyPQC for a clinical webinar providing evidence-based guidance on managing opioid withdrawal, initiating and maintaining MOUD during pregnancy and postpartum, and addressing breastfeeding considerations for perinatal patients with OUD.

### Plans of Safe Care - Provider Training

 **March 9th | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM MT (Virtual)**

### Community Listening Sessions - We Need Your Voice

The Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health Communicable Disease Unit, is hosting community listening sessions to gather input on STIs, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and HIV. Community members (18+) are invited to share perspectives on education, treatment, access to care, and local challenges; in-person participants will receive a \$20 appreciation incentive, and virtual options are available for those who prefer anonymity.

 **March 9th | 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM MT (In - Person & Virtual) | Cheyenne, WY**

Laramie County Public Library, Willow Room

2200 Pioneer Ave, Cheyenne WY

[Register here](#)

 **March 10th | 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM MT (In - Person & Virtual) | Casper, WY**

Natrona County Public Library, Crawford Room

307 E 2nd St, Casper WY

[Register here](#)

 **March 11th | 5:00 PM - 7:45 PM MT (In - Person & Virtual) | Gillette, WY**

[Register here](#)

## AWHONN Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS) Course

 **March 10th & March 11th | Jackson, WY**

The AWHONN Obstetric Patient Safety (OPS) course will be held in Jackson, Wyoming, with each date offering a one-day, in-person session for healthcare professionals caring for pregnant and postpartum patients. Course materials are provided at no cost, and eligible Wyoming-based participants may receive travel and lodging reimbursement through Wyoming Department of Health funding. [Register here.](#)

## NICU Family-Centered Care Webinar - FCC Taskforce

 **March 12th | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM MT (Virtual)**

## Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health – 2026 MMH FORUM

 **March 17th-18th | 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM MT (Virtual)**

## UW ECHO in Rural Obstetrical Care

 **March 19th | 12:00 - 1:00 PM MT (Virtual)**

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## RESOURCES:



### Free Naloxone (NARCAN) Available in Wyoming:

The Wyoming Department of Health offers free naloxone (NARCAN®) to agencies, businesses, and organizations across the state. Naloxone is a safe, life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and help prevent fatal outcomes.

To order naloxone, click [here](#)



### Wyoming Partnership Access Line (PAL)

Did you know Wyoming providers have access to free, same-day psychiatric consultation for children and adolescents? The Wyoming Partnership Access Line (PAL) connects healthcare providers with child and adolescent mental health specialists for real-time guidance on diagnosis, treatment planning, medication questions, and community resources.

Available statewide and at no cost to providers.

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**CONTACT & SUBSCRIPTION INFO:**

Wyoming Perinatal Quality Collaborative  
Maternal & Child Health Unit | WDH  
[wdh-mch-wypqc@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-mch-wypqc@wyo.gov)  
[addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov](mailto:addysen.lechuga1@wyo.gov)

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If you would like to share updates, events, or highlights in a future issue, please email one of the addresses listed above by the end of the month

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