

High Value Health Care—Wisconsin's Competitive Advantage

High quality, high value health care is a hallmark in Wisconsin. Hospital systems are improving quality, increasing efficiency and delivering value to employers and residents in their communities. Hospitals have been working with WHA in a focused initiative to reduce readmissions. This week, we feature the work of Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh.

Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh Reduces Early Elective Deliveries

While the number of early elective deliveries (EEDs) at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh was already low, the improvement team took a proactive approach and determined that they could drive their rate even lower by focusing on process improvements.



Team members from Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh were familiar with the data entry required for the project from their experience working with Peridata, a web-based perinatal database developed by the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee/Center for Urban Population Health (CUPH). Using that data, the team developed guidelines for providers that they felt would help standardize the process. Their primary objective was to improve birth outcomes by advocating for elective deliveries not to be scheduled prior to 39 weeks.

Information was shared with providers practicing at Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh, which included how the data is abstracted from the documentation and what diagnoses were coded as medical indications since this is not always clear. Physician involvement was key to improving outcomes.

"WHA staff was very helpful by always being available for conference calls when we had questions," said Cindy Malliet, women's health manager for Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh. "Tracking and monitoring the data helped us remain accountable to the work before us, as well."

For hospitals working to reduce EEDs, the team highly recommended gaining the support of the front-line nursing staff.

"This project was a good reminder that even small changes can make a big difference in our processes and outcomes," said Malliet.