

New Childbirth Simulation Training to Reduce Complications and Deaths Among Women of Color

As part of this year's Healthcare Simulation Week, NYC Health + Hospitals showcased a new medical simulation training to educate doctors, nurses, and other members of the labor and delivery team on best practices for responding to maternal hemorrhage, one of the top causes of pregnancy-related deaths for women of color.

The simulated high-risk birthing demonstration conducted by a team at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem involved an obstetric team, and a patient actor who delivered a "baby." The "mother" then experienced a postpartum hemorrhage. The team's response to the emergency included consenting the patient for blood transfusion, quantifying blood loss, administering medications to decrease blood loss, and calling for additional resources -- best practices established by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists/ District II.



The new Childbirth Simulation training debuted at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem during Healthcare Simulation Week.



Among those leading the simulation training effort are (standing, from left) Katie Walker, MBA, RN, director and assistant vice president of the Simulation Center; Michael Meguerdichian, MD, MHPED, clinical director and medical director of the Simulation Center at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Harlem; Eboné Carrington, CEO, NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem; Herminia Palacio, MD, New York City's deputy mayor for Health and Human Services; Machel Allen, MD, Chief Medical Officer, NYC Health + Hospitals; and Komal Bajaj, MD, MS-HPed, clinical director of the Simulation Center.

The new training is a major component of the city's four-point plan, announced in July, to reduce severe maternal morbidity and maternal mortality events over the next five years. The SimWeek event was attended by Deputy Mayor Dr. Herminia Palacio and was one of ten scheduled events organized by the Simulation Center, to highlight our use of simulation to promote best practices and improve patient safety.

Here are 6 things you need to know about the new simulation training to make childbirth safer for all women:

1. NYC Health + Hospitals will receive \$2.87 million to develop the program of training, including the simulation training for maternal hemorrhage.
2. The simulation training will be rolled out starting in December to approximately 1,000 labor and delivery staff and other health care professionals who interact with the high-risk patient population, including primary care providers, anesthesiologists, and members of rapid response teams.
3. The course will also include elements that have been a part of traditional maternal hemorrhage training, including teamwork, patient-centered communication, and critical actions during a postpartum hemorrhage.

4. To facilitate easier, year-round access to the simulation training focused exclusively on maternal care, the public health system will also open mini-sim labs—one- and two-room satellite simulation training facilities located close to Labor and Delivery units at six public hospitals.
5. The simulation mini-sim labs will be located at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, Bellevue, Lincoln, Jacobi, Elmhurst, and Kings County.
6. NYC Health + Hospitals has also been selected to lead a simulation train-the-trainer program for 23 public and private hospitals citywide whose patients are at highest obstetric risk, and will be the first health system in the country to adopt a comprehensive training course created by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists.

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