Behavioral Health Integration Collaborative

“Integrating Mental Health Care into the OB Practice”

March 24, 2022
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About the BHI Collaborative

The BHI Collaborative was established by several of the nation’s leading physician organizations** to catalyze effective and sustainable integration of behavioral and mental health care into physician practices.

With an initial focus on primary care, the Collaborative is committed to ensuring a professionally satisfying, sustainable physician practice experience and will act as a trusted partner to help them overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of meeting their patients’ mental and behavioral health needs.

TODAY’S SPEAKER

Ricci Sylla, MD, FACOG
Obstetrician-Gynecologist
Sutter East Bay Medical Group
Integrating Mental Health Care Into the OB Practice

Ricci Sylla, MD, FACOG
Obstetrician-Gynecologist
Sutter East Bay Medical Group
Importance of Mental Health in Obstetric Care

• Perinatal mood disorders are among the most common complications that occur in pregnancy or in the first 12 months after delivery.
  • 1 in 5 women around the world will suffer from a maternal mental health complication
  • Maternal mental health affects birthing parent, child, and family
Women Need To Be Screened For Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends that ob-gyns and other obstetric care clinicians:

• Screen patients at least once during the perinatal period for depression and anxiety symptoms using a standardized, validated tool. If screening is done during the prenatal period, it should also be done during the postpartum visit.

• Refer patients to appropriate behavioral health resources when indicated, are prepared to initiate medical therapy, or both.
Integrating Perinatal Mental Health Care Into My OB Practice

• Improve office practices around detection, assessment, treatment, referral and follow up for patients with perinatal mental health conditions

• Collaborated with University of Massachusetts Medical School Lifeline for Moms program to implement a program with these core elements
Timeline

1. Create quality improvement team
2. Do practice review
3. Establish goals for screening and referrals
4. Create a workflow for the office to meet goals
5. Provide patient treatment resources for clinicians
PLANNING
1. Create quality improvement team

Obstetric care clinician champion: Ricci Sylla, MD

Practice champions: Clinic manager and medical assistant

Engage staff representing all roles in practice
2. Do practice review

- Questionnaire
- Chart review
### 3. Establish goals for screening and referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Priority or ranking (high, medium, low)</th>
<th>How will this be measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Provide psychoeducation, destigmatize perinatal mental health conditions, and help engage women in treatment using a strength-based approach.</td>
<td>• By AUGUST 24, we will provide via 1 piece of (print, electronic link, email) literature regarding prenatal and/or postpartum mental health in each new prenatal packet.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>The intake nurse will spot-check 10% of prenatal packets on the first Tuesday of the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Implement screening for depression and anxiety twice during pregnancy (at initiation and at 24-28 weeks gestation) and at least once in the postpartum period (6 weeks postpartum)</td>
<td>• By SEPTEMBER 28, 70% of patients who have a new Ob visit on or after AUGUST 18 will be screened for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and PTSD at the time of their new Ob visit using Sections A, B, C, and D of the Screening for Mood changes During Pregnancy and After Giving Birth Screener. Add dot phrase for results to initial Ob visit note.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>On the first Friday of the month the intake nurse will check charts of patients having an ob intake visit during the prior day for documentation of screening results (paper form, completed electronic form, or documented scores)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Presentation to staff by Dr. Sylla on importance of mental health in OB care and preparing for initiative to launch
IMPLEMENTATION
4. Create a workflow for the office to meet goals

**Castro Valley OB/Gyn Perinatal Mental Health Workflow**

- **EPDS, MDQ, GAD-7, and PC-PTSD**
  - At the time of the first OB visit
  - **Paper screener completed at an in-person visit**
  - The MA provides the patient with a laminated sheet that provides an explanation about the screener. The patient completes a paper version of the screener

- **EPDS, GAD-7**
  - At 25 weeks GA and at the comprehensive postpartum visit
  - **Paper screener completed at an in-person visit**
  - The MA provides the patient with a paper version of the screener to complete

- **Woman completes Screening for Mood Changes**

- **The MA scores the Screening for Mood Changes**
4. Create a workflow for the office to meet goals

The MA enters the completed Screening for Mood Changes form EPDS, GAD-7, MDQ results in EPIC & enters the PC-PTSD results in the care team notes in Epic

If screen is negative for all conditions
The MA educates the patient about the importance of emotional wellness:
*From the screen it seems like you are doing well. Having a baby is always challenging and every woman deserves support. Do you have any concerns that you would like to talk to us about?*

If EPDS question 10 or PHQ9 question 9 is 1, 2, or 3
The MA talks to the patient:
*Thank you for completing the screener. Your provider will be in shortly to discuss the results with you.*
Do not alarm patient (reinforce her honesty). Offer to hold baby during visit. Call another staff member if needed.
If concerned about the safety of the woman/baby:
*You and your baby deserve for you to feel well. Your provider will talk with you about ways we can support you.*

If screen is positive for any condition
The MA talks to the patient:
*Thank you for completing the screener. Your provider will be in shortly to discuss the results with you.*

The MA verbally (if provider is @ desk) informs provider of positive screening and writes the results on the whiteboard

Continue to page 2
4. Create a workflow for the office to meet goals

If EPDS question 10 or PHQ9 question 9 is 1, 2, or 3

The provider assesses woman’s need for emergency psychiatric evaluation and calls consultation line as needed. It sounds like you are having a lot of strong feelings. It is common for women to experience these kinds of feelings. Many effective support options are available. I would like to talk to you about how you have been feeling recently.

Emergency psychiatric evaluation is indicated (see Lifeline4Moms Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit, p 25)

If screen is positive for any condition

Provider uses the Lifeline4Moms Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit to evaluate screening results and plan response. You may be having a difficult time or be depressed or anxious. Getting help is the best thing you can do for yourself and your baby. It can also help you cope with the stressful things in your life (give examples). You may not be able to change your situation right now; you can change how you cope with it. Many effective support options are available.

Emergency psychiatric evaluation is NOT indicated
4. Create a workflow for the office to meet goals

- The provider calls the Emergency Room to alert them that the patient is coming.
- The MA or front desk person escorts the patient down to the Emergency Room.
- If patient declines to go to the Emergency Room, schedule patient for a next day appointment with any available provider for a follow up.

**Therapy referral indicated**

- Provider gives the patient the referral list.
- Non-complex treatment or diagnosis (Ob/Gyn comfortable treating)
  - Provider prescribes medication.

**Medication treatment indicated**

- Complex treatment or diagnosis
  - Provider routes the patient to the Sutter referral service (patient will be contacted within three days).

Provider asks MA to flag record for repeat EPDS and GAD-7 screening at next monthly follow-up to monitor status until one negative screen and patient is connected to a therapist.

If positive screens at conclusion of postpartum care:
1) make sure patient is engaged in psychotherapy and if not re-refer,
2) transfer to a PCP provider, if available.
3) continue to follow up with patient until one negative screen and the patient is engaged with a therapist.
5. Provide patient treatment resources for clinicians

Develop a Resource and Referral Directory

- Online directories
- Local therapists
- Podcasts
- Mindfulness apps
Treatment resources for clinicians

Free Perinatal Psychiatry Consultation Service

Real-time telephone consultation
For provider support with diagnosis, treatment planning, and medication management of pregnant and postpartum women with depression and anxiety.

Free service for all providers in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.
Valuable Tools and Resources

• University of Massachusetts Medical School Lifeline for Moms developed screening and decision support tools to help ob-gyns and other women’s health care clinicians address perinatal mental health conditions, including:
  • Assessment and treatment algorithms
  • Guide for Implementing Perinatal Mental Health Care Into Obstetric Practice
### Lifeline for Moms Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit

- Screening tools
- Assessment tools
- Treatment algorithms

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>sertraline* (Zoloft)</th>
<th>fluoxetine (Prozac)</th>
<th>citalopram** (Celexa)</th>
<th>escitalopram** (Lexapro)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting dose and timing</td>
<td>25 mg qAM (if sedating, change to qHS)</td>
<td>10 mg qAM</td>
<td>10 mg qAM</td>
<td>5 mg qAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial increase after 4 days</td>
<td>↑ to 50 mg</td>
<td>↑ to 20 mg</td>
<td>↑ to 20 mg</td>
<td>↑ to 10 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second increase after 7 more days</td>
<td>↑ to 100 mg</td>
<td>↑ by 20 mg</td>
<td>↑ by 10 mg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reassess Monthly (increase as needed until symptoms remit)</td>
<td>↑ by 50 mg</td>
<td>↑ by 20 mg</td>
<td>↑ by 10 mg</td>
<td>↑ by 10 mg up to 20 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic range***</td>
<td>50-200 mg</td>
<td>20-80 mg</td>
<td>20-40 mg</td>
<td>10-20 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualized approach to titration</td>
<td>Slower titration (e.g., every 10-14-days) is often needed for patients who are antidepressant naïve or with anxiety symptoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Lowest degree of passage into breast milk compared to other first-line antidepressants; **Side effects include QTc prolongation (see below); ***May need higher dose in 3rd trimester and when treating an anxiety disorder. In general, if an antidepressant has helped during pregnancy, it is best to continue it during lactation. Prescribe a maximum of two (2) antidepressants at the same time.
Evaluation

• Repeat chart review periodically to assess if practice is meeting stated goals
Takeaways

• Make sure all staff understand the importance of maternal mental health
• Create a workflow that will work for both staff and clinicians
• Provide basic mental health care resources for clinicians
BHI Collaborative “On Demand” Webinars

Check out other webinars from the Overcoming Obstacles series such as:

• BHI in Practice: Establishing Efficient Workflows

• How to Address the Growing Behavioral Health Concerns Among Children, Adolescents, and Families

• The Value of Collaboration and Shared Culture in Behavioral Health Integration

Watch all these webinars and more on the Overcoming Obstacles YouTube playlist now!
Collaborative Resource – **BHI Compendium**

The **BHI Compendium** serves as a tool to learn about behavioral health integration and how to make it effective for your practice and patients.
AMA Resources – **How-To Guides**

Access AMA’s BHI practice guides for practical strategies, actionable steps and evidence-based resources on four specific areas of effective integrated care: pharmacological treatment, substance use disorder, suicide prevention, and workflow design.
Thank you for joining!