



## *For immediate release*

**CONTACT:** Rachel L. Estabrook, Director  
Communication & Outreach Services  
St. Joseph Health System  
989.362.9375

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### **St. Joseph Health System Sets Sights on Improved Patient Safety and Quality for Obstetrics and ER Care**

St. Joseph Health System is now participating in a recently expanded statewide patient safety collaborative focused on protecting mothers, newborns and emergency patients. The patient safety collaboratives, coordinated by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality, are known as MHA *Keystone: Emergency Room (ER)* and MHA *Keystone: Obstetrics (OB)*.

MHA *Keystone: ER* seeks to prevent patient harm in hospital emergency rooms by improving safety, reducing overcrowding, and treating sepsis (blood poisoning) in the early stages. Seventy-one hospitals are now participating in this statewide initiative through interventions that will help ensure that the most critically ill patients receive treatment first and reduce the likelihood that a patient will leave a hospital before receiving appropriate care. The MHA Keystone Center has partnered with Lean Transformations Group, LLC, Ann Arbor, in this endeavor.

MHA *Keystone: OB* seeks to prevent harm to mothers giving birth and their newborn babies. Sixty-seven Michigan hospitals are now participating in the MHA *Keystone: OB* collaborative, which primarily focuses on timely interventions for elective induction of labor, coordinating a safe progression of labor, and appropriate responses to fetal distress. The interventions for MHA *Keystone: OB* include improving patient safety through influencing attitudes and practices. The MHA Keystone Center has partnered with G. Eric Knox, MD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and Kathleen Rice Simpson, PhD, RNC, FAAN, perinatal clinical nurse specialist at St. John's Mercy Medical Center, St. Louis, MO, in this endeavor.

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“Patient safety and quality is at the very center of what we do,” said Debra Fox, Vice President of Care Services at St. Joseph Health System. “Our participation in MHA *Keystone: ER* and MHA *Keystone: OB* will further ensure our patients receive the safest, highest quality care, and that both patient and staff satisfaction will increase.”

Participation in this new collaboration is the latest in patient safety and quality efforts already under way at St. Joseph Health System. “These collaboratives allow us to build integrated teams composed of physician champions, leadership, and clinical staff such as nurses to implement best practice clinical bundles, compare our practices to the practices of other clinicians and organizations, and to monitor objectively how our care efforts translate into safety by monitoring evaluative metrics such as morbidity statistics. We also are transforming care through our work in building high reliability. High reliability allows the organization to build redundant steps into our care delivery processes so that there are multiple opportunities to stop an error before it happens” said Fox.

“Since the founding of the MHA Keystone Center by Michigan hospitals in 2003, the state’s dedicated health care professionals have established themselves as leaders in delivering safe, effective and the highest quality health care,” said MHA President Spencer Johnson. “Nearly every Michigan hospital has participated in one or more collaboratives sharing evidence-based best practices to prevent infections, reduce surgery complications and hospital inpatient days, improve patient safety, reduce health care costs and establish a culture of safety.”

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