

# Maternal Health Toolkit 2022

## Patient Safety Awareness

*Your guide to raising awareness  
among staff, patients, and families*



*Patient Safety is Everyone's Responsibility*

Hear Her. You Can Help Save Her Life.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 700 women die each year in this country from problems related to pregnancy or delivery complications. Every death is a tragedy, especially when we know that two thirds of pregnancy-related deaths could be prevented. As many as 50,000 women experience severe, unexpected health problems related to pregnancy that may have long-term health consequences.

The CDC's [Division of Reproductive Health](#) is committed to healthy pregnancies and deliveries for every woman. The [Hear Her](#) campaign supports [CDC's efforts](#) to prevent pregnancy-related deaths by sharing potentially life-saving messages about [urgent warning signs](#).

Women know their own bodies better than anyone and can often tell when something does not feel right. The campaign seeks to encourage partners, friends, family, coworkers, and providers—anyone who supports pregnant and postpartum women—to really listen when she tells you something doesn't feel right. Acting quickly could help save her life.



### [Women's Health Calendar Observances](#)

**Maternal Health** – Use these images, messages, and links in your public social media and internal staff education. [Downloads and Shareable Graphics](#)

Message 1: About 700 women die each year in the U.S. from pregnancy-related complications. Most deaths could be prevented. Learn about how you can help save moms. [CDC: Hear Her](#) #HearHer #PatientSafetyAwareness #UnitedForPatientSafety



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Message 2: Pregnancy and the first year of motherhood come with lots of changes to your body. Most are normal but talk to your health care provider if something feels wrong. There are urgent warning signs for pregnancy-related complications. Learn the signs. [CDC: Hear Her](#) #HearHer #PatientSafetyAwareness #UnitedForPatientSafety

Message 3: We all play a role in preventing pregnancy-related deaths. If a pregnant or a woman who has been pregnant in past year expresses concerns about symptoms she is having, listen to her and act quickly. It could save her life. [CDC: Hear Her](#) #HearHer #PatientSafetyAwareness #UnitedforPatientSafety

Message 4: If you are pregnant or gave birth within the past year, talk to a health care provider if you feel something is not right. Some urgent warning signs include a headache that won't go away and gets worse, changes in your vision, trouble breathing, or chest pain. [CDC: Hear Her](#) #HearHer #PatientSafetyAwareness #UnitedforPatientSafety

Message 5: Too many women die each year in the U.S. due to pregnancy-related complications. If you know someone who is pregnant or a woman who has been pregnant in past year, Hear Her concerns. It could save her life. [CDC: Hear Her](#) #HearHer #PatientSafetyAwareness #UnitedforPatientSafety



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## Additional Resources

### [Español \(Spanish\)](#)

#### **Maternal Health**

- [Pregnancy-Related Deaths](#)
- [Pregnancy Complications](#)
- [Depression Among Women](#)
- [Severe Maternal Morbidity in the United States](#)

#### **Data and Surveillance**

- [Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System](#)
- [Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality \(ERASE MM\)](#)
- [Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from 14 U.S. Maternal Mortality Review Committees, 2008-2017](#)
- [Vital Signs: Press Release – Pregnancy-related deaths happen before, during, and up to a year after delivery \[English\]](#)
- [Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)
- [CDC Grand Rounds: Meeting the Challenges of Measuring and Preventing Maternal Mortality in the United States](#)

#### **Supporting States**

- [Perinatal Quality Collaboratives](#)
- [CDC Levels of Care Assessment Tool \(CDC LOCATe\)](#)
- [Review to Action External icon](#)
- [National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives External icon](#)

#### **Federal Agencies**

- [Health Resources & Services Administration—Maternal Morbidity & Mortality External icon](#)
- [Office on Women’s Health—Pregnancy External icon](#)
- [National Institutes of Health—National Child and Maternal Health Education Program External icon](#)

#### **Health Care Professional Resources**

- [Health: Labor of Love: Toolkits \(in.gov\)](#)
- [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\): Maternal Mortality Prevention External icon](#)
  - [ACOG Committee Opinion No. 736: Optimizing Postpartum Care External icon](#)
- [Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses \(AWHONN\): Post-birth Warning Signs Education Program External icon](#)
- [Council on Patient Safety in Women’s Health Care Patient Safety Bundles External icon](#)
- [Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine External icon](#)

### Other Resources

- [March of Dimes External](#)
- [Merck for Mothers External](#)
- [Preeclampsia Foundation External](#)