FACT SHEET
Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs

KEY POINTS

> Maternal mental health (MMH) conditions are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting 1 in 5 women (800,000 women each year in the United States).1-3
> MMH conditions include depression, anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar illness (which may include psychotic symptoms), and substance use disorders.1-3
> Women will see a frontline healthcare provider (obstetric, pediatric, or primary care provider) 20-25 times during a routine pregnancy and first year of baby’s life, providing ample opportunity for these providers to discuss and screen for MMH conditions.
> Frontline healthcare providers, however, do not always have the training, knowledge, or resources to address MMH conditions, nor are they typically reimbursed for addressing MMH conditions.5
> There are not enough psychiatric providers to care for women experiencing MMH conditions.5
> Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs provide education, support, and resources to help frontline healthcare providers address MMH, thereby leveraging scarce psychiatric resources to offer consultation and treat the most complex cases.5

BUILDING CAPACITY
Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs build the capacity of frontline providers to address MMH conditions through:

EDUCATION
Trainings and toolkits for providers and staff on evidence-based guidelines for screening, triage, and referral; risks and benefits of medications; and discussion of screening results and treatment options.

CONSULTATION
Real-time psychiatric consultation and care coordination for frontline providers serving pregnant and postpartum women including obstetricians, pediatricians, primary care physicians, and psychiatrists.

RESOURCES & REFERRALS
Linkages with community-based resources including mental healthcare, support groups, and other resources to support the wellness and mental health of pregnant and postpartum women.

HOW PERINATAL PSYCHIATRY ACCESS PROGRAMS WORK

ACCESS PROGRAM STAFF TRAIN FRONTLINE PROVIDERS TO
• Screen women for MMH conditions
• Treat low-level anxiety or depression

FRONT LINE PROVIDERS CONTACT THE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR
• Consultation in more complex cases
• Resources and referrals for affected patients

PSYCHIATRISTS CAN PROVIDE FACE-TO-FACE CONSULTATION FOR THE MOST COMPLEX CASES

Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs address a critical public health issue through an innovative, creative, cost-effective approach to treat mental health in frontline healthcare settings.
**PSYCHIATRY ACCESS PROGRAMS & RESOURCES**

**MCPAP for Moms**
MCPAP for Moms launched in 2014 as the first Perinatal Psychiatry Access Program in the U.S. MCPAP for Moms builds upon the successful Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program (MCPAP), which leverages highly-trained psychiatrists to assist pediatricians in managing the mental health of their pediatric and adolescent patients. Learn more at mcpapformoms.org

**Lifeline4Moms**
The Lifeline4Moms National Network of Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs is a learning community that convenes Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs from across the country to:
- Evaluate, inform, and share best practices
- Build community, engage stakeholders, evaluate programs, facilitate peer learning
- Identify policies and funding to replicate cost-effective models
Learn more at umassmed.edu/lifeline4moms

**PCORI**
The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has launched a 3-year study to assess the effectiveness of Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs. The study will assess which program components work best (training, consultation, resources and referrals). Results will be shared in scientific journals and at national webinars and meetings. Learn more at bit.ly/pcoristudy

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**NATIONWIDE IMPACT**

This federal legislation provides funding to states to create Psychiatry Access Programs based on the MCPAP model. In 2018, 30 states and the District of Columbia applied for funding for Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs; 7 states were each awarded 5-year grants (totaling $3.2 million per state over the lifetime of the program). An additional 18 states received funding to launch Child Psychiatry Access Programs, bringing the number of states with these programs to over 30.

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**21st CENTURY CURES ACT**

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**Citations**

1 ACOG Committee Opinion 757 (2018).
3 Fawcett (2019). Journal of Clinical Psychiatry (80)
5 Byatt (2020). Promoting the Health of Mothers & Children

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Download this and other fact sheets at mmhla.org/factsheets