



Hope Hospice & Palliative Care Rhode Island Celebrates 40 Years

PROVIDENCE – Hope Hospice & Palliative Care Rhode Island (Hope Hospice RI), is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Hope Hospice RI was founded in 1976 by a volunteer planning committee of health care professionals and community members who cared deeply about providing stronger end-of-life care in Rhode Island.

Today, the organization is the major teaching affiliate for hospice and palliative medicine of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and recently expanded into Massachusetts through an affiliation with HopeHealth in Massachusetts.

“We are deeply committed to our mission of providing outstanding, high quality care for our seriously ill patients and their families for the past 40 years,” said Diana Franchitto, President & CEO of Hope Hospice RI. “As the second oldest hospice in the nation, it is an honor to be able to help people live s with as much comfort and dignity as possible when time matters most.” ❖

Women & Infants to participate in project to reduce primary cesareans *Hospital accepted into American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Reducing Primary Cesareans Project*

PROVIDENCE – Women & Infants Hospital has been accepted into the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Reducing Primary Cesareans Project. Women & Infants is working with other hospitals from across the United States and ACNM to improve healthy outcomes for mothers and families by focusing on reducing the incidence of first cesarean sections in low-risk women who have never given birth.

“Our team of academic and community-based midwives is thrilled to champion this interprofessional opportunity to strengthen our current knowledge of what promotes healthy labor and birth,” said **ELISABETH HOWARD, PhD, CNM, FACNM**, director of nurse midwifery in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology (clinical) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. “As providers, midwives possess considerable



expertise in physiologic approaches to the care of women during childbirth. We look forward to working with others both here and around the country to identify the optimal care practices that will lead to a reduction in the cesarean section rate.”

The Reducing Primary Cesareans (RPC) Project is part of the ACNM Healthy Birth Initiative® (HBI), a long-term effort with representatives from leading maternity care organizations. HBI focuses on preserving normalcy by promoting evidence-based practices that support a healthy birth based on a pregnant woman’s own physiology. The HBI works to encourage a consistent approach to birth practices and is focused on reducing those that are not evidence-based.

Funded by the Transforming Birth Fund, the RPC Project builds on the HBI by offering unique opportunities for maternity care professionals and health systems to initiate action steps known as bundles. When implemented,

these bundles prompt hospital system change that is aimed at reducing the incidence of primary cesarean births in the United States, which has continued to increase without associated improvements in health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Women & Infants will work with the multi-disciplinary Reducing Primary Cesareans Quality Improvement (QI) expert panel and ACNM staff to identify areas of improvement and track process and outcome measures to demonstrate improvement in readiness, assessment, reliable and appropriate care, recognition and response, and systems learning. Women & Infants will implement at least one of three bundles, based on a data-driven analysis of the major cause of first cesarean in low-risk women at that hospital:

- Improving Care and Comfort in Labor
- Promoting Spontaneous Progress in Labor
- Implementing use of Intermittent Auscultation as the Standard for Fetal Assessment ❖