



CORE (Colorado Obstetric Readiness in Emergency Care) is a new CPCQC simulation-based training initiative designed to strengthen obstetric emergency care readiness among Colorado emergency departments (EDs) and first responders. Amid closures of rural labor and delivery units and declining access to obstetric services, pregnant and postpartum patients are increasingly seeking care in EDs. Yet many EDs and first responders have limited opportunities for standardized training in high-risk, low-frequency obstetric emergencies. CORE is designed to strengthen ED readiness to recognize, assess, stabilize, and respond to obstetric emergencies and pregnancy-related complications during pregnancy and through the first year postpartum.

WHY COLORADO NEEDS CORE:

37.5%

of Colorado counties have no obstetric clinicians or birthing facilities.

49%

of rural Colorado women live 30+ min from a birthing hospital versus 3% in urban areas.

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rural Colorado hospitals closed their labor and delivery units between 2018 and 2026.



Maternal mortality rates are highest in rural Colorado counties.

12%

increase in obstetric ED visits per capita in Colorado's maternal care deserts and rural counties, 2018–2024 (CHA).

Source: March of Dimes, Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care in Colorado (2023 report, 2021 birth data); CPCQC Measuring What Matters, CO MMRC Report 2017–2020).



► **WHAT IS CORE?** CORE is a half-day, in-person obstetric emergency simulation training delivered directly in your ED, using your team, equipment, workflows, and clinical space.

On-site at your ED

No travel for hospital staff. CPCQC brings the training to you!

CPCQC Clinical Simulation Faculty

Experienced Maternal-Newborn Nurse (RNC-MNN) and board certified OB/GYN physician.

High acuity, low frequency

Built for the obstetric emergencies rural ED teams rarely see, but must be ready to manage.

Who should participate?

CORE is designed for the whole care team; Nurses, physicians, APPs, techs, and EMS train side by side.

HOW CORE WORKS – PRIORITIZED TRAINING CONTENT

Recognize

Early signs & team communication

- Foundations of perinatal emergency readiness
- Early recognition & the “first 10 minutes”
- Precipitous delivery & newborn resuscitation
- Shoulder dystocia
- Postpartum hemorrhage

Respond

Live simulation & debrief

Escalate

Case-based, high-acuity events

- Hypertensive emergencies in pregnancy
- Maternal cardiac arrest
- Perimortem cesarean delivery
- Respectful & equitable care delivery
- Course wrap-up & evaluation

Reflect

Trauma-informed debrief & plan

ALIGNED WITH NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

New CMS Conditions of Participation, finalized in December 2024 and phasing in from 2025–2027, require hospitals to maintain written, evidence-based protocols for obstetric emergencies and ensure staff are trained to respond appropriately. These requirements apply to hospitals that may care for pregnant or postpartum patients, including EDs without a dedicated labor and delivery unit. CORE supports hospitals in preparing for and aligning with these requirements through simulation-based training, team practice, and reinforcement of obstetric emergency readiness.

- ✓ Written, evidence-based obstetric emergency protocols in place
- ✓ Staff training and competency documented
- ✓ Emergency response processes appropriate for hospitals without dedicated L&D services
- ✓ Equipment, escalation, and transfer processes reviewed and operationalized

Source: CMS Hospital & CAH Conditions of Participation final rule, effective 2025–2027.

CORE'S PATH FORWARD



BUILT ON CPCQC'S TRACK RECORD

CPCQC is the only organization in Colorado dedicated to statewide perinatal quality improvement, supporting AIM Patient Safety Bundle implementation and specialized perinatal education across Colorado's birthing hospitals. This work has helped reduce C-section rates, improve postpartum care transitions, and expand screening for substance use and perinatal mood disorders. CORE builds on that statewide experience by extending CPCQC's quality improvement and education infrastructure into rural emergency departments.

100%

of Colorado birthing hospitals partner with CPCQC

97%

of Colorado births happen at CPCQC-partner hospitals

59,335

babies delivered per year at partner hospitals

BRING CORE TO YOUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT — EQUIP YOUR TEAM TO BE READY WHEN EVERY MINUTE MATTERS.