

Postpartum Response & Integrated Support for Maternal Mental Health

Prospectus

A nine-month learning collaborative designed to support provider organizations in improving maternal mental health screening, referral and follow-up for at-risk postpartum patients

March 2027-November 2027

PBGH California Quality Collaborative

© Purchaser Business Group on Health

ExecutiveSummary

The California Quality Collaborative (CQC) invites you to join the Postpartum Response & Integrated Support for Maternal Mental Health (PRISM) Learning Collaborative, a program launching in March 2027 that supports provider organizations in improving screening, referral and follow-up for postpartum patients at risk for maternal mental health conditions, including mild-to-moderate depression and anxiety, during the first 12 months after birth.

Collaborative Objectives

By November 2027, PRISM aims to improve maternal mental healthcare by supporting participating organizations to:

- **Increase** screening for maternal mental health conditions among postpartum patients during the first 12 months after birth
- **Implement** effective referral and follow-up practices for at-risk postpartum patients
- **Inform** best practices for postpartum mental health screening and follow-up across diverse care settings in California

Who can participate?

California-based organizations providing postpartum care in OB-GYN, primary care and family care settings that currently screen postpartum patients for maternal mental health conditions (e.g., PHQ-9 or Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale) are eligible to participate. Eligible organizations include care delivery organizations (federally qualified health centers and look-alikes, health clinics and health systems), provider networks and care organizations (e.g., independent physician associations and accountable care organizations) and practice support organizations.

What Makes a Strong Participant?

Strong participants will have or be able to demonstrate the following:

- Internal organization goal to improve postpartum mental health
- Identifying an executive or provider leader to sponsor participation
- Supporting project lead(s) in participating in collaborative activities

Capabilities:

- At least six months of experience screening patients screening postpartum patients (e.g., PHQ-9, EPDS) for maternal mental health conditions
- Data collection and reporting for screening and follow-up rates

© Purchaser Business Group on Health

Why Postpartum Maternal Mental Health?

Maternal mental health (MMH) conditions affect up to 1 in 5 birthing people and encompass a range of disorders, including depression and anxiety. Early identification and ongoing support are essential, as symptoms may emerge or worsen over time, including well into the postpartum period.

The need for improved MMH screening, monitoring and treatment has never been greater. While postpartum care often focuses on the first weeks following delivery, significant risk extends far beyond the traditional postpartum visit.* Most maternal suicides occur after six weeks postpartum, with nearly half occurring between six and 12 months after birth. These findings underscore the importance of continued clinical attention through screening, follow-up and escalation throughout the first year after delivery.

While screening recommendations have expanded, MMH care remains fragmented across settings. Strengthening screening, follow-up and referral pathways in the obstetrics setting is just one step in ensuring patients receive timely, connected and effective support throughout the postpartum period.



Measures of Focus

As part of the project, organizations will be asked to self-report one or both of the following quality measures to demonstrate improvements in screening and follow-up:

- Depression Screening + Follow-Up (DSF-E) – stratified for postpartum patients
- Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-up (PDS-E)

*Source: Bridging the Postpartum Gap in California, *California Quality Collaborative*

© Purchaser Business Group on Health

Technical Assistance

PRISM participants will receive funding and technical assistance to support improvements in screening, referral and follow-up for at-risk birthing people.

Learning Events

- Facilitated monthly peer meetings to promote sharing and learning from a dynamic network of peer healthcare organizations
- In-person statewide convening
- Assignments to improve the quality of screening and follow-up

Improvement Assignments

Organizations will complete improvement assignments throughout PRISM, including:

- Improvement Project Aim Statement (with quality data)
- Maternal mental health screening and follow-up workflow
- Patient Journey Map

1:1 Coaching Sessions

- Each organization will have up to three 1:1 coaching sessions during the collaborative
- Coaching sessions can be used to address organization-specific challenges

Direct Funding

- Funding of up to $5,000 over the nine-month collaborative to support advancement of screening and follow-up improvements



© Purchaser Business Group on Health

Timeline & Collaborative Requirements

Application Process

Recruitment for PRISM will begin in December 2026 and conclude on or before February 28, 2027; organizations will be accepted on a rolling basis. Review the recruiting video for more program details.

Collaborative Requirements

Participants will be required to actively engage in the program, as demonstrated by:

- Regular attendance, contribution and participation during monthly webinars
- Attendance at in-person convening
- Schedule and complete 1:1 coaching sessions
- Participation in evaluation activities



Recruiting Steps

Step	Timing
Recruitment Launch	• December 2026
Interest Form	• Interested teams should submit the interest form as soon as possible
Application Submission & Recruiting Meeting	• Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis • If accepted, applicants will be required to participate in a recruitment meeting with CQC and approve a scope of work to enroll
Recruitment Deadline Applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis.	• February 28, 2027

Program Timeline

Dec 2026 – Feb 2027

Recruiting

March 2027 – November 2027

Learning Collaborative

- Monthly: learning sessions
- Assignments
- In-person convening
- 1:1 coaching

© Purchaser Business Group on Health



Learn More & Apply

If you are interested in joining PRISM, complete the interest form to receive an application. After submitting an application, a call will be scheduled with your organization to determine if the collaborative is a good fit.

There are no fees to participate in the collaborative. Funding for the CQC BHI Initiative is provided by Centene.

Participant organizations will be finalized no later than February 28, 2027, in advance of the March 2027 collaborative start date.

Questions? Contact Anna Baer at abaer@pbgh.org

About the Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH)

Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH) is a nonprofit coalition representing nearly 40 private employers and public entities across the U.S. that collectively spend $350 billion annually purchasing health care services for more than 21 million Americans and their families. PBGH has a 30-year track record of incubating new, disruptive operational programs in partnership with large employers and other healthcare purchasers. Our initiatives are designed to test innovative methods and scale successful approaches that lower health care costs and increase quality across the U.S.
pbgh.org

About the California Quality Collaborative (CQC)

For nearly two decades, health plans, providers and purchasers have entrusted the California Quality Collaborative to bring stakeholders together to align and co-design common solutions to shared challenges. This drives scalable, sustainable improvement across the healthcare delivery system. CQC works with health plans and delivery system partners serving more than 20 million Californians, translating collective action into measurable improvements in quality, equity and outcomes across the state. CQC is a healthcare quality improvement program of the Purchaser Business Group on Health.
calquality.org

© Purchaser Business Group on Health