

# Improving Maternal Health for Women with Chronic Conditions

PROJECT NAMES: MOMobile Safe Start (Maternity Care Coalition); Camden Delivers (Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers); Maternal Intentions (Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership)

SCALE: Approximately 1,000 women with chronic conditions

TIMEFRAME: January 2015 – December 2017



## CREATING LINKAGES TO PRENATAL AND PRIMARY CARE FOR WOMEN WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Merck for Mothers is working with three community-based organizations to respond to the growing problem of chronic conditions, like diabetes, hypertension and obesity, which are contributing to the rise in maternal mortality and morbidity in the U.S. The Maternity Care Coalition in Philadelphia, Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in Camden, NJ, and Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership in New York City are implementing innovative programs that link women with chronic conditions to primary and prenatal care to improve their health before, during and after childbirth. Researchers from Yale University are assessing the impact of these programs on health outcomes, utilization of appropriate care and cost. While each program is unique, they have four key features:



### Community health workers

Specialized community health workers ensure that women receive the care and support they need for a healthy pregnancy and childbirth and lifelong well-being. These individuals are specifically trained to help women manage chronic conditions and other social and medical challenges that affect health outcomes.



### Linkages to healthcare providers

Partners work closely with local clinics, hospitals and providers to identify women who could benefit from their program, help women manage their health conditions and support efforts to keep them in care.



### Evaluation of outcomes and cost

Data on patient outcomes and the impact of these programs on health care costs will inform the design and implementation of new models of community-based care, including a standard approach for how community health workers can be most effective in improving maternal health for women with chronic conditions.



### Advocacy for replication

Findings from an independent evaluation will inform development of a standard approach to improve maternal health for women with chronic conditions and provide evidence to encourage national replication.

### The Maternity Care Coalition's MOMobile Safe Start

program is a partnership with the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania. Community health workers, who serve as both patient advocates and birth doulas, support women early in pregnancy (up to 34 weeks gestational age).

**Camden Delivers** is a program within the Camden Coalition for Healthcare Providers' Accountable Care Organization which serves patients with complex health needs. Camden Delivers works with all women of reproductive age in the city, using community health workers to support women's reproductive life planning and ensure they receive both prenatal and primary care.

**The Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership** has a long history of serving mothers in Harlem. The Maternal Intentions' community health workers use a specialized curriculum to educate pregnant and recently postpartum women about managing their chronic conditions and support them with reproductive life planning.

For more information and an update on progress, visit [www.merckformothers.com](http://www.merckformothers.com)