Ob Hospitalist Group Urges House Ways and Means Committee to Consider Improved Approach to Childbirth Safety

Chief Medical Officer raises concerns about ‘clinical discrepancies’ in care delivery to pregnant women

Greenville, S.C., October 22, 2018 – Ob Hospitalist Group (OBHG), the nation’s leading provider of customized OB/GYN hospitalist programs, today sent a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee raising concerns about the country’s maternal mortality rate and detailing the company’s successes in addressing health outcomes for mothers and babies.

In a letter addressed to Rep. Pete Roskam (R-Illinois), Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman, OBHG Chief Medical Officer Mark N. Simon, MD, warned that one of the primary challenges to improving U.S. maternal-fetal outcomes is clinical discrepancies in how care is delivered for pregnant women.

OB hospitalist programs are part of the solution, according to Simon.

“Our hospitalist programs provide coverage and support to community OBs until they can arrive at the hospital or when the woman has no assigned obstetrician. With a clinician onsite at all times, urgent health concerns and emergencies are quickly addressed by an OB/GYN with specialized training in those situations – during pregnancy emergencies, Labor & Delivery, and in the critical ‘fourth trimester,’” wrote Dr. Simon in the letter.

The Committee on Ways and Means recently mailed letters to 15 of the country’s largest hospital systems that operate more than 900 hospitals and together delivered more than one in five babies in 2015. The committee is requesting that leaders answer questions and provide investigators with copies of their childbirth safety protocols and data on mothers’ deaths and injuries.

Dr. Simon noted that evidence-based practices are the foundation of OBHG’s work with its 160 hospital partners.

“Every clinician submits clinical information into our national database, which captures data used to track quality and outcome metrics. Clinicians at every partner hospital then draw on this network of evidence-based best practices to improve outcomes at the local level,” wrote Dr. Simon.

Simon highlighted the company’s successes in hospitals with OBHG programs, including improved VBAC attempts and decreased c-section rates; reductions in errors in high-risk or emergency situations; reductions in post-partum complications; and standardized processes that reduce variation and improve overall quality of care.
The Ways and Means letter noted that a study conducted with Ascension Health, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S., offered empirical evidence that an onsite, “first touch” model provides significant benefit in reduction of serious harm incidents. The analysis identified a 31 percent reduction in serious harm incidents before and after implementation of an OBHG program.

“We are committed to our vision of elevating the quality and safety of women’s healthcare by delivering specialized services that improve quality and positively impact the lives of women, newborns, and the families we serve,” Simon’s letter concluded.

**About Ob Hospitalist Group**

Since 2006, Ob Hospitalist Group (OBHG) has led the nation in elevating the quality and safety of women’s healthcare by delivering 24/7 real-time triage and hospital-based obstetric coverage to ensure consistent, timely care for patients as well as collaborative, non-competitive support for local OB/GYN physicians. As the original architect of the Obstetric Emergency Department (OBED), OBHG ensures that every expectant or postpartum mother presenting to the hospital receives consistent and unconditional medical care by an experienced physician. OBHG leverages its national network of more than 700 dedicated clinicians in over 160 partner hospitals across 32 states to develop best practices in care which improve patient outcomes, reduce care variability and drive operational and financial efficiencies. OBHG is headquartered in Greenville, SC. For more information, visit [www.OBHG.com](http://www.OBHG.com) or call 800.967.2289.