

TO: Health Care Practitioners

FROM: Commissioner Manisha Juthani, M.D.

RE: Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative

I am writing to inform you of an important statewide maternal health initiative for your awareness and participation. The Connecticut Urgent Maternal Warning Signs Bracelet Initiative, led by the Connecticut Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the Connecticut Hospital Association with funding from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, launched this fall to address a critical challenge: more than half of pregnancy-related deaths in Connecticut occur during the postpartum period, and most are considered preventable. This nation-leading initiative aims to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality by improving clinical recognition of and response to postpartum complications.

Under this program, birthing hospitals statewide are now providing postpartum patients with orange bracelets and educational materials before discharge. Patients are encouraged to wear these bracelets for 8-12 weeks postpartum as a visual signal to healthcare professionals and emergency personnel that they are newly postpartum and may be at risk for serious complications including eclampsia, blood clots, sepsis, cardiomyopathy, and perinatal depression.

When you encounter a patient wearing an orange bracelet in any healthcare setting, or even a community setting, please follow this protocol:

IDENTIFY that the patient may be postpartum and confirm their pregnancy status within the past 12 months;

INVESTIGATE by screening for urgent maternal warning signs; and

INTERVENE immediately by connecting patients experiencing symptoms with emergency care when needed.

I strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the urgent maternal warning signs outlined in the attached patient and provider materials. You can also visit the CHA website at cthosp.org/bracelet for additional resources and training information.

Your vigilance in recognizing these bracelets and screening for postpartum complications can be lifesaving. Together, we can create a comprehensive safety net for birthing persons across Connecticut during this vulnerable postpartum period. Thank you for your commitment to maternal health and for your participation in this critical initiative.