

CDC/DHHS/EAHEC Perinatal HIV and other STIs Quality Initiative

Eastern North Carolina has been selected by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) to participate in an initiative to promote health care professional education and awareness regarding the prevention and testing of HIV and other STIs during pregnancy.

Collaborating partners include Eastern AHEC, NC Department of Health and Human Services Women's Health Branch and the HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch. This project uses a quality improvement model to implement a best practices approach in private practices who provide prenatal care in eastern NC. This approach is designed to focus on the application of best practice guidelines to enhance screening/testing of HIV and other STIs during pregnancy in accordance with CDC guidelines and NC law.

The focus of the grant is on the eight counties with greater than 20 reported cases of HIV in 2007. These counties include: Pitt, Wayne, Edgecombe, Craven, Hertford, Lenoir, Wilson, and Nash. Consultation, technical assistance and education based on a self-assessment of testing rates for HIV and other STIs is offered to practices who self-select to participate.

Participating physicians, nurses, and advanced practice providers will receive tool kits with current CDC guidelines, NC laws and articles to enhance prenatal screening and testing of HIV and other STIs during pregnancy. Continuing Medical Education and health professional credits will be awarded for participation in this quality improvement project.

Anyone interested in learning more about this project using a quality improvement model can contact the Eastern AHEC Perinatal Outreach Office, Mildred Carraway, at 252-744-3089. Email Carrawaym@ecu.edu