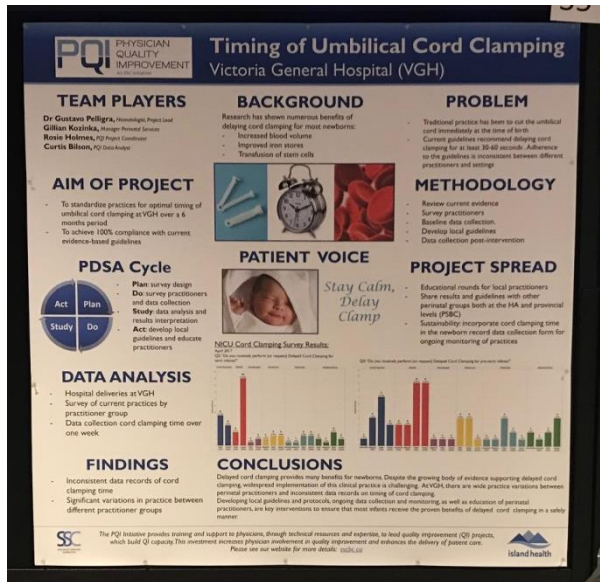


Island Health physician's PQI poster wins honourable mention at Quality Forum 2018

February, 2018



In February, Island Health neonatologist Dr. Gustavo Pelligra submitted his Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) project on umbilical cord clamping to the Champions of Change storyboard contest during Quality Forum 2018. Dr. Pelligra received an honourable mention for his PQI work.

Quality Forum, put together by the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council, is an annual conference to discuss how to improve health-care quality and patient safety.

Dr. Pelligra has been helping infants with complex health problems for more than 20 years. He knew that research has shown

numerous benefits to delaying umbilical cord clamping. The benefits include increased blood volume, improved iron stores, and the transfusion of stem cells. Although the research exists, there was not a lot of data about cord clamping time at VGH.

The Physician Quality Improvement initiative provided the opportunity to look into this further.

The Physician Quality Improvement initiative is the result of collaboration between Doctors of BC, the Ministry of Health and Island Health. Physicians with quality improvement ideas apply to the program and accepted applications receive one-year of support. This includes quality improvement curriculum delivered in a cohort workshop environment and support from a dedicated team to help their quality improvement project.

Dr. Pelligra and his team surveyed practitioners to develop a baseline data collection. Their results showed a wide variation and inconsistent data records on cord clamping. Dr. Pelligra's PQI project recommends developing local guidelines and protocols to record data as well as educating perinatal practitioners to ensure most infants receive the proven benefits of delayed cord clamping.

Physicians interested in PQI should reach out to PQI manager, Carolyn Carlson (PQI@viha.ca 250-331-8626) for more information. Physicians are always encouraged to reach out about potential projects.