

***The committee has identified this emerging issue for providers, healthcare facilities and organizations from the second quarter of Maternal Mortality Reviews:***

- Providers should engage in methods for timely and accurate diagnosis to facilitate prompt referral to appropriate higher level of care facilities to decrease morbidity and mortality throughout the life course.
- Providers should seek education and establish systematic processes surrounding assessing patients with known substance use and/or mental health disorders and refer them to appropriate perinatal mental health specialist, community based mental health or substance use disorder providers for treatment and periodic follow-up.
- Facilities should implement policies and create roles for appropriate perinatal bereavement services to provide support for women and their families who have experienced perinatal loss.
- Inpatient providers should not release patients with mental illness until they have a verified scheduled outpatient appointment inclusive of date, time, and location to ensure appropriate follow-up.