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Practicum Site:
TennCare
Nashville, TN

Practicum Site Supervisor:
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Increasing Immediate Postpartum Contraception Access with TennCare and the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care

Program/Project Purpose: My practicum was completed at TennCare, Tennessee's Medicaid program, in the Chief Medical Office and in partnership with the Tennessee Initiative for Perinatal Quality Care (TIPQC). At TennCare, I worked on a project to help implement a policy change from November 2017 that helped increased access to contraception, particularly long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), for pregnant women enrolled in TennCare. Part of my responsibilities with this project were to act as a liaison between Tennessee hospitals implementing the policy and TennCare. My job was to work primarily with the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Pharmacy-CoverRx to problem-solve any implementation issues and provide support from TennCare. The objectives of this practicum experience were to learn the structure and inner workings of how the Division of TennCare operates, and through this project understand what TennCare is doing to improve the reproductive health and quality of life of their enrollees in a managed-care model.

Structure, Design of Program/Project: My 2-month practicum took place at the TennCare offices located in Nashville. When I wasn't at the TennCare offices, I was attending leadership meetings at the TIPQC offices located out of Light Hall at Vanderbilt University. The hospital I primarily assisted with policy implementation was Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The TIPQC partnership with TennCare helped facilitate conversations with hospital staff working on the frontlines to implement this policy change.

Outcomes and Final Practicum Products: Programmatic outcomes were monitored and evaluated through claims received by TennCare from the respective hospitals participating in implementing the policy change. Final practicum products included drafting a best practice postpartum LARC insertion policy for the Vanderbilt Women's Health Clinic and helping TIPQC and TennCare adapt a monthly state monitoring report to track the policy implementation process, billing and costs, coverage, uptake, and LARC removals.

