

OB hospitalists provide consistency of care and staffing for growing hospital

CASE STUDY: UHS WILSON MEDICAL CENTER



Located in
Johnson City, NY



Performs about
1,700 births annually



Deliveries have nearly
tripled since 2019



OBHG partner
since 2018

Challenge:

Time of transition with physician groups caused safety concerns and gaps in coverage

In 2018, the private OB/GYN practice landscape was changing in Upstate New York. Not only were many physicians retiring, but many were moving out of the area or accepting new positions.

UHS Wilson Medical Center was working with a private physician group at the time. Coverage of the obstetrics emergency department (OBED) by the private group was not consistent, leading to safety concerns.

An evaluation conducted by the hospital's nurses revealed the need for an actual presence of OB/GYNs in the hospital on a regular basis. There were gaps in OBED coverage and there was concern for safety and quality of patient care.

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Dr. Rajesh Davé
Chief Medical Officer
of UHS Wilson
Medical Center

Solution:

Establishment of an OB hospitalist program for improved standardization of care

UHS Wilson Medical Center partnered with Ob Hospitalist Group (OBHG), beginning as a part-time program. Since then, the partnership has grown to a busy full-time program, with the hospital adding MFMtelehealth services to its OBHG partnership agreement.

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Results:

Patient encounters and deliveries are up

Service volume has grown exponentially since the program began, almost doubling the number of OBED patient encounters in 2019 compared to 2021. Deliveries have tripled for the hospital and OBHG, with the OBHG team managing 23% of all UHS Wilson hospital deliveries today.

The hospital recently opted to add both inpatient and outpatient MFMtelehealth to its OBHG partnership to keep higher-risk pregnancies within the community. UHS Wilson Medical Center's MFMtelehealth solution is a unified solution for managing obstetric emergencies and patients with high-risk conditions. Within minutes, OBHG clinicians can collaborate with MFM physicians at the patient's bedside through telehealth. Not only does UHS Wilson Medical Center benefit from maternal fetal medicine and OB hospitalist availability around-the-clock in the hospital, but they also have MFMtelehealth outpatient clinic coverage.

One of the main challenges the OBHG partnership has helped address is OB/GYN staffing concerns. Quality was a challenge. "Working with OBHG helped us standardize, set best practice examples and gain acceptance among the existing practitioners," said Dr. Davé.

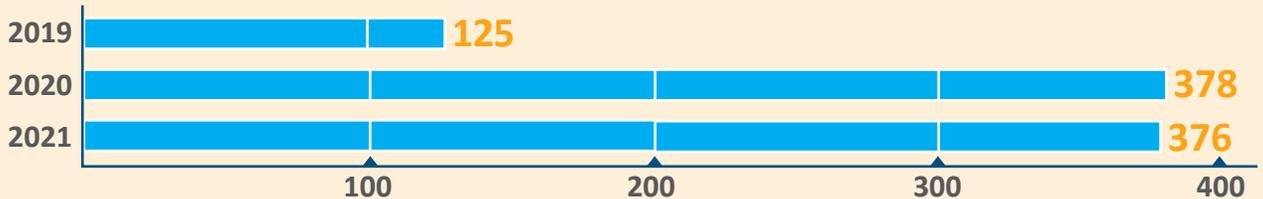
The close partnership between nurses at UHS Wilson Medical Center and the OBHG clinicians is another important part of the program's success. Thanks to the collaborative relationship, UHS Wilson's nurses feel supported and deliver improved care, due to their own satisfaction and ability to practice within the scope their license.

"The support the OBHG clinicians provide to our nurses is welcome. At the end of the day, the relationship between the OB hospitalists and our nurses improves patient outcomes," said Dr. Davé. "I also find the OB hospitalists to be very helpful in our teaching programs such as our family medicine residency and medical student programs."

Dr. Davé reflected on the support provided to community physicians. "OBHG provided emergency and high-risk OB to fill the gaps in our practice continuum. I fully recommend OBHG. My only advice is to prepare medical staff beforehand because it may take some time for your practicing physicians to accept the new model. But once they adjust to the change, they will love it."



OBHG Deliveries – tripled from 2019 to 2021



OBED Patient Encounters increased 88% since 2019

