

The OB Clinic of Greenville Hospital System is a large provider of prenatal care in the state of South Carolina, and serves the low-income population of Greenville, SC. Over 98% of the patients' deliveries are covered by Medicaid, and approximately 30% of prenatal care is self-pay (or uninsured). Almost 20% of patients are teens, 30% are African-American, and 30% are Latino. Many of our patients face potential risks to having a healthy pregnancy and baby: over half of our patients are overweight, 42% do not initiate breastfeeding, 22% are smokers, 15% have gestational hypertension, 5% have gestational diabetes, and 5% have had a poor outcome from a previous pregnancy.

To better respond to patients' needs and strengths, the OB Clinic, in partnership with the SC March of Dimes, began implementing the CenteringPregnancy model of group prenatal care in 2008. Almost two years after the beginning of our first Centering group, we have had 218 patients actively participate in Centering through to their deliveries, with 150 more currently participating in 18 ongoing groups. In the summer of 2010, we expanded from two new groups each month to four, one of which is in Spanish. Six nurse practitioners and six certified nurses' assistants facilitate our groups, and have been through Centering training.

Having had a successful transition to the CenteringPregnancy model, we are now evaluating the outcomes of the program. Centering has produced benefits for our providers, our practice, and our patients. The challenges to the program have mainly been in clinic administration, child care, transportation, and patients' time availability. Through patient feedback, we have found that Centering patients learn more than patients in traditional care, and are more satisfied with their care. We are currently conducting research into patient outcomes including preterm birth, birth weight, NICU admissions, prenatal care adequacy, cost of care, and more.