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Greetings Massachusetts AAFP Member,

Beginning in 2016, the March of Dimes of Massachusetts continued its focus on the Prematurity Prevention Campaign by adopting five evidenced-based prematurity prevention interventions:

- Progesterone injections for women with a history of spontaneous preterm birth
- Birth spacing (>18 mos.) and interconception care
- Elimination of non-medically indicated early elective deliveries
- Expanding access to group prenatal care
- Low-dose aspirin (81mg) for women at high or moderate risk of preeclampsia

The first item on this list, progesterone injections or 17 alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate (also referred to as 17P or 17OHP), is crucial to our work in reducing preterm birth here in the state of Massachusetts. *However, patients and providers face a number of barriers in access to 17P, and the medication is under-utilized.*

Working closely with Dr. Audra Meadows, MD, MPH, and Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MPQC), who has spearheaded work on access to progesterone here in Massachusetts, we held the first 17P Convener Meeting in February 2017 with a number of stakeholders. This day of conversation brought to light the specific barriers women face in Massachusetts but also many areas of opportunities for success and collaboration. We would like to draw your attention to some resources that were developed since the convener meeting.

This mailing includes:


- The Progesterone Toolkit, authored by the MPQC with special thanks to the MA Department of Public Health for their collaboration
- A fact sheet on 17P injections from the March of Dimes
- A fact sheet on the Prematurity Roadmap of Interventions from the March of Dimes
- A flyer about an upcoming online CME course, fully funded by IM CoIN, offered by Harvard's Global Academy

We are asking you to join in our efforts to reduce barriers and increase access to 17P for eligible women here in Massachusetts. If you would like further information on the work on progesterone in Massachusetts, **including joining our workgroup**, please email Christina Gebel at cgebel@marchofdimes.org.

Thank you for your continued work in serving mothers and babies in Massachusetts.



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