

August 26, 2020

Dear [hospital contact]

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a new Massachusetts initiative to improve contraceptive access across the Commonwealth, and to invite you and your colleagues to participate in this program. Through a state grant to Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine, the [Partners in Contraceptive Choice and Knowledge \(PICCK\)](#) program will offer contraceptive training and technical assistance to providers and staff in birth hospitals and their licensed and affiliated health centers across the Commonwealth. The goal of PICCK is to increase the capacity of contraceptive services state-wide, and address any existing challenges in providing these services so that all Massachusetts residents receive high quality and patient-centered care.

Although Massachusetts has seen decreases in the rate of unintended pregnancies in recent years, there are still over 50,000 unintended pregnancies each year. Unintended pregnancies not only increase the risk of poor birth outcomes for mothers and infants, but they also lower the rates of prenatal care and breastfeeding, particularly among vulnerable populations. In providing this funding, Governor Baker has recognized the importance of improving the health of Massachusetts families by increasing access to contraception.

PICCK programming targets five key areas: postpartum contraception including immediate postpartum LARC, improved access to the copper IUD and ulipristal acetate for emergency contraception, pregnancy intention and contraceptive needs interventions for clinics (PICNIC), same-day LARC provision, and shared decision-making approaches to contraceptive counseling.

The PICCK team will design and tailor programming to meet the specific needs of each practice. The timeline for the engagement will depend on the hospitals' needs. Programming may include:

- **Interdisciplinary grand rounds** about the newest approaches to contraceptive counseling and provision
- **On-site clinical training** by fellowship trained OB/GYNs in the form of grand rounds, resident/learner education, lunchtime presentations, videos or demonstrations on topics like:
 - Pregnancy intention and contraceptive needs interventions for clinics (PICNIC)
 - Efficient and evidence-based patient-centered contraceptive counseling
 - Immediate postpartum LARC
- **On-site training for non-clinical staff** focusing on billing, coding, stocking, and workflow issues around both inpatient and outpatient LARC, or other methods as needed

In addition to these hospital-based activities, PICCK offers statewide activities, such as:

- **A webinar series**, expanding on the latest research and best practices in contraceptive care. View our upcoming and archived webinars for CME credit [here](#)
- **A website** that includes resources such as sample guidelines and protocols, provider tools, and information for patients. View our website [here](#)
- **An annual meeting** where providers and staff can meet other hospital participants and learn (for CME/CNE credit) the latest reproductive health information. Register for our annual meeting [here](#)
- **A media inclusivity consultation service** which aims to address the need for materials that are easy to navigate, welcoming, and inclusive to all genders, all races and ethnicities, people of all sizes, people of all literacy levels, and in multiple languages. Learn more or submit a request [here](#)

To learn more about the PICCK program, please see our “About Video” [here](#).

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you (or your designee) to further describe our program, answer your questions, hear about your interest and needs, and discuss how our team can partner with you and your colleagues. Please let [Natasha Lerner](#), the Program Director, know if you have any questions or would like to meet. If we do not hear back from you, we will attempt to follow up to schedule a time to meet.

Thank you.

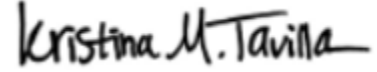
Sincerely,



Katharine O'Connell White, MD, MPH
Principal Investigator
(617) 414-3745
Katharine.White@bmc.org



Natasha Lerner, MPA, DrPH(c)
Program Director
(617) 414-5102
Natasha.Lerner@bmc.org



Kristina Tavilla, MPH
Program Manager
(617) 414-5195
Kristina.Tavilla@bmc.org