

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce a 3-year collaboration between the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), Ariadne Labs, Ballmer Group, and birthing hospitals in Washington to address disparities in childbirth experiences and reduce inequities in maternal and neonatal outcomes across the state. We will do so by recruiting all 56 birthing hospitals across four cohorts to implement [TeamBirth](#) - a care process innovation that centers shared decision making and transparency for the birthing person, and promotes effective communication and teamwork across all care team members. TeamBirth has been tested in a federally registered clinical trial and implemented by hundreds of clinicians, serving tens of thousands of families at community hospitals on both coasts and in the heartland of the United States. In 2020-21, TeamBirth was spread to 16 hospitals to understand the impact on racial inequities in childbirth experience and safety. Today, there are over 70 hospitals implementing TeamBirth and that number continues to grow. TeamBirth is well positioned to become the standard of care for birthing hospitals in the United States with Washington as a state leader and national example. The benefits of implementing TeamBirth include:

- **Patient Satisfaction:** 79% of patients who received TeamBirth in our clinical trial believed their preferences made a difference in the care they received; 87% had the role they wanted in decisions about their labor; and 94% reported their clinical team talked with them in a way they could understand.
- **Clinician Satisfaction:** 93% of nurses, midwives and obstetricians who participated in our clinical trial believe TeamBirth improves care; and 90% would recommend TeamBirth to other units.
- **Reduced Health Inequities:** TeamBirth demonstrates a statistically significant positive impact on equity in experience through autonomy and shared decision making across race/ethnicity groups (using Mother's Autonomy in Decision Making -MADM- scale). *To be published in 2023.*

Hospitals that agree to participate in this project are expected to:

- Sign this commitment letter with WSHA
- Identify a hospital-based implementation leadership to guide the project at their site
- Enroll to the TeamBirth site on *Aria* - a web-based platform developed at Ariadne Labs to provide remote guidance on implementation strategies
- Participate in implementation project planning with WSHA, Ariadne Labs and fellow hospital sites
- Complete Ariadne Labs' brief, web-based *Atlas* survey to assess hospital context, readiness, and implementation progress
- Participate in monthly learning sessions (60-90 mins) for implementation support and direct training on TeamBirth with WSHA and Ariadne Labs
- Organize a TeamBirth launch event

- Administer and input data from patient surveys to evaluate the impact of TeamBirth on disparities in experience and outcomes
- Participate in coaching calls with WSHA and Ariadne Labs to discuss implementation progress, guidance on adapting tools and strategies to the site’s local context, and site data

This project aims to rigorously study the impact of the TeamBirth model of care on safety and dignity in childbirth to create the evidence necessary for broad scale adoption across the state and region. Hospitals will have continued access to Ariadne’s TeamBirth tools, Whiteboard, and decision aids are provided under the terms of their Creative Commons licenses. Hospitals may access and use these works as authorized under these licenses during this project and thereafter. By signing below, you are committing to support this TeamBirth project and maintain contact with the Principal Investigator regarding issues or concerns. Please sign and return to: Jenica Sandall, Director of Safety & Quality at [JenicaS@wsha.org](mailto:JenicaS@wsha.org).

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**Hospital Name**

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**1. Executive Leader Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Written Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information (phone/email address)

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**2. Provider Implementation Leader Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Written Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information (phone/email address)

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**3. Nurse Implementation Leader Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Written Name and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Information (phone/email address)

**Watch this 5-minute “Why TeamBirth video for more information!**

