POSITIVELY AFFECTING NEONATAL OUTCOMES WORLDWIDE

Our network includes 1200+ centers across 30+ countries, collecting critical information on 2.5+ million infants and 72.5+ million patient days.
Vermont Oxford Network (VON) supports and facilitates research, education, and quality improvement to improve the safety and value of medical care for newborn infants and their families. Members use up-to-date, confidential information from the world’s largest and most comprehensive databases of high-risk infant data to benchmark their practices and outcomes and identify areas for improvement. Individuals and teams from NICUs and hospitals from around the world address critical challenges of newborn care with evidence-based quality improvement methods guided by VON expert faculty and resources.

Whether you work daily in the NICU or in one of the many other roles dedicated to improving the lives of newborns, we support the care of the world’s most vulnerable population together. The network depends on the passion and precision of members. Hospitals can join VON individually or as part of regional collaboratives or health systems to participate in databases and quality improvement initiatives. Your membership supports the vision of improving care continuously and globally.

As our worldwide community of practice has grown, VON members have demonstrated remarkable progress to improve outcomes, reduce morbidities, and save lives.
VON serves as a neutral, independent party in analyzing and providing benchmarking data for individual centers and groups that can be used to identify local opportunities for improvement of neonatal care. More than 1,000 VON members benefit from participating in the world’s largest voluntary databases for very low birth weight infants and neonatal intensive care admissions. Confidential reports document patient characteristics, practices, mortality and morbidities, and length of stay.

DATA AND REPORTS
In service of improvement opportunities

By 2014, 99.1% of studied NICUs had achieved the shrunkened adjusted rate for mortality of the best 25% from 2005.


DATA BASES

VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT DATABASE
• 401–1500 grams birth weight or 22–29 weeks gestational age, including infants who die in the delivery room or other location

EXPANDED DATABASE
• All infants admitted to a NICU center within 28 days of birth
• All VLBW infants

EXTREMELY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT FOLLOW-UP DATABASE
• Health and neurological development at 18–24 month corrected age for infants <1000 grams or 22–28 weeks gestational age at birth

FEATURES

Standardized clinical definitions ensure accuracy of information
Free data collection software provides extensive error-checking and immediate feedback on data quality and accuracy
HIPAA compliant
Real-time data up to last entry
Data for quality improvement
Since our beginning, VON has supported clinical trials and observational studies. Pragmatic clinical trials rigorously evaluating types of surfactant preparations, skin care practices, and delivery management have all been studied through the VON Clinical Trials Group. Observational studies that chart the changes and variation in practices contribute to understanding the scope of practice and point toward areas for improvement and change. These studies have evaluated the use of antenatal and postnatal steroids, the impact of hospital structure and staffing, disparities in care, and the changes in outcomes for more than two decades.

VON members conduct research using the VON databases to support local quality improvement by describing relevant clinical outcomes, trends over time, and improvements in neonatal care.
EDUCATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
Learn, measure, share, and improve

We lead multi-center collaboratives and provide resources for teams to share practices and outcomes so we can collectively improve on the most critical and complex challenges facing newborn caregivers.

Model for improvement
As leaders in disciplined quality improvement, we teach neonatal care teams to design small iterative tests of change and use continuous measures to ensure every change results in improvement. We guide teams to implement the most recent research and guidelines into practice so they can achieve and sustain improved outcomes.

Parent-advisors are key members of VON faculty and improvement teams along with world leaders in neonatology, patient safety, and quality improvement science. Our teams also partner with senior leaders to show measurable improvement in the value of care provided to newborns and their families.

Collaborating and convening for quality
VON’s annual meeting and online resources to implement and measure evidence-based practices accelerate the work of improvement teams and individuals. World experts in neonatal care and improvement science guide and motivate interdisciplinary teams in intensive multi-center collaboratives, including:

- Newborn Improvement Collaborative for Quality (NICQ)
- Internet-Based NICQ (iNICQ)
- Universal Training for NAS and Antibiotic Stewardship

NEWBORN IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE FOR QUALITY (NICQ)
In-person immersive experience that unites teams based on self-identified clinical challenges to rigorously analyze data and demonstrate measurable improvement.

INTERNET-BASED NICQ (iNICQ)
A structured improvement process and an evidence-based online curriculum set the pace to achieve sustainable improvement of a complex clinical challenge.

UNIVERSAL TRAINING
Orchestrated quality improvement initiative for individuals, centers, health systems, and state collaboratives to standardize care for neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).
Attendees benefit from the convergence of clinical and quality science, and learn how to translate this information into improvements in the quality, safety, and value of care for newborns. Sessions from the live conference are catalogued online to share the learning throughout the year.

The conference features work from leading teams from around the world and informs, motivates, and inspires teams to dedicate themselves to disciplined quality improvement efforts throughout the year.

“The most valuable part of the AQC is the opportunity to see the tremendous positive impact effective collaboration between institutions and individuals has within the neonatal community.”

—VON Member

The VON Annual Quality Congress is a dynamic event for interdisciplinary teams, individual practitioners, and family-advisors. We learn from each other and leading experts in neonatology and improvement science about the latest evidence and methods to implement evidence-based practices.

Attendees benefit from the convergence of clinical and quality science, and learn how to translate this information into improvements in the quality, safety, and value of care for newborns. Sessions from the live conference are catalogued online to share the learning throughout the year.

The conference features work from leading teams from around the world and informs, motivates, and inspires teams to dedicate themselves to disciplined quality improvement efforts throughout the year.
Centers working together in geographically or administratively based groups, including state, regional or international collaboratives, health care systems, and hospital alliances, join VON to implement evidence-based improvement across many centers.

Database and reporting
As members of a group, centers can track center-level data with consolidated data of all centers within a group and receive custom reports tailored to the unique needs of the group.

Quality improvement
Health systems and state perinatal quality improvement collaboratives implement standardized practices to address critical complex clinical issues. VON programs lead to rapid-cycle adoption of evidence-based practices that reduce variability and improve outcomes across many centers.

HEALTH SYSTEMS, STATES, AND REGIONAL GROUPS
Systematically scaling improvement

“Our somewhat disconnected health systems in Massachusetts worked together in a true community of practice to improve the health and welfare of infants and families in our communities.”

—Alan Piccarillo MD, formerly of the Massachusetts Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative, VON Statewide Partner
Community support

VON volunteers mentor global clinicians and providers in resource-limited settings. During a pilot program in Ethiopia, volunteers helped clinical staff identify opportunities for improvement and then assisted in implementing guidelines for nutrition, sanitation, medication, documentation, and high-risk follow-up.

Through donations and community support, VON has also sponsored training of neonatologists to provide necessary care and affect change in their home countries. These providers are advocates for evidence-based improvement and, in turn, help train other neonatal care providers.

GLOBAL HEALTH
Tailored locally for a worldwide community of practice

VON develops partnerships and supports health professionals around the world with training and data that address specific needs and constraints of resource-limited settings. Over the years, these relationships have evolved into a worldwide community of neonatal practice.

GLOBAL NEONATAL DATABASE

Collaboratively designed for units in resource-limited settings
Emphasizes importance of essential newborn care practices
Includes all neonatal unit admissions
Harmonized with existing Ministry of Health and international indicators
Provides real-time data up to last entry
Informs VON volunteer efforts
Contributes to establishing a fully integrated health system for improvement across the spectrum of care
OUR MISSION

is to improve the quality and safety of medical care for newborn infants and their families through a coordinated program of research, education, and quality improvement.

33 Kilburn Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
802.865.4814
VTOXFORD.ORG