340B IN ACTION
UnityPoint Health – Meriter
Meriter | Madison, Wisconsin

Pharmacy Support for OB Patients
At Meriter Hospital, 340B savings have allowed the hospital to start an inpatient pharmacist shift dedicated to supporting our birthing center. Meriter delivers the most babies in the state of Wisconsin and over 36% of deliveries were for Medicaid or Self-pay patients.

While many hospitals do not devote pharmacy resources to OB patients, an increasing number of women are becoming pregnant at an older age and with more chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity than previously. This has led to more patients on complex medication regimens while admitted. In 2020, about 35% of women who gave birth at Meriter had one or more chronic disease. These medication regimens often require monitoring and adjusting due to physiological changes related to pregnancy and birth.

The OB Pharmacist works as an integrated member of the patient’s care team by:

- Ensuring that appropriate adjustments are made to medication regimens based on the patient’s status
- Being involved in key initiatives that have decreased the number of opioids used both in the hospital and after discharge for pain control
- Ensuring patients can afford and access discharge prescriptions

“This is one of the best programs we’ve put in place in the last few years as it’s had an outstanding, positive impact on patient care,”
-Carla Griffin, Executive Director of Pregnancy and Newborn Care Services.