Pharmacy Support for OB Patients

At Meriter Hospital, 340B savings have allowed the hospital to dedicate an inpatient pharmacist shift in support of our birthing center. Meriter delivers the most babies in the state of Wisconsin, and more than 36% of our deliveries were for Medicaid or Self-Pay patients.

While many hospitals do not devote pharmacy resources to OB patients, more women are becoming pregnant at an older age and with more chronic diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity. Roughly 35% of women who gave birth at Meriter had one or more chronic diseases. The presence of chronic diseases relates to more admitted patients on complex medication regimens, which 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 to decrease 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,” says Carla Griffin, Executive Director of Pregnancy and Newborn Care Services.