Creating the Capacity to Screen Deaf Women for Perinatal Depression
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Perinatal depression impacts 1 out of 9 mothers in the general population.¹

Deaf women receive sub-optimal maternal health care and report more dissatisfaction with their overall prenatal care experiences due to systemic linguistic and attitudinal barriers.²

These barriers leave Deaf women vulnerable to development or exacerbation of depression during the perinatal period, which can have a detrimental, multi-generational impact.

Yet, the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screen (EPDS) is inaccessible to Deaf mothers due to severe disparities in English literacy and health literacy.⁴, ⁵, ⁶

In 2015, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommended depression screening for all pregnant and postpartum women.³

Community-Engaged Method:

Team includes:
- Deaf Co-I
- ASL-fluent Co-I
- 2 Deaf Community Advisors (Deaf laypeople)

Equivalence comparison; Team-approved ASL EPDS filmed

Back translate EPDS from ASL to English

Recruit 50 Deaf perinatal women from across U.S.

Deaf Community Advisors administer ASL EPDS on videophone

40% of filmed calls will undergo fidelity checks

Psychometric data analyses

Disseminate findings to Deaf Community, scientific community, and continue research endeavors

Forward translate EPDS from English to ASL

¹ Ko, Rockhill, Tong, Morrow, & Farr (2017)
² O’Hearn (2006)
³ ACOG (2006, 2010)
⁴ Gallaudet Research Institute (2003)
⁵ Barnett S, McKee, Smith, & Pearson (2011)
⁶ Anderson & Kobek Pezzarossi (2012)

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