Low-dose aspirin initiative

**How can labor and delivery units play a larger role in the initiative?**

*Recognize that low-dose aspirin (LDA) is safe for use in pregnancy and recommended for the prevention of preeclampsia.*

*If a pregnant patient presents to labor and delivery for some type of complication, identify if they're taking aspirin. Ensure all patients are screened.*

*Encourage patients to regularly attend prenatal appointments for monitoring of blood pressure and proteinuria. Provide education on maternal warning signs.*

*Provide education that LDA effectiveness is lowered if taken less than 90% of the time. Use the OPQIC toolkit to provide educational support.*

*Share initiative with physicians. Criteria used for prescribing LDA varies by physician, especially when it comes to moderate risk factors. However, any combination of two moderate risk factors moves a patient into a high-risk category. Moderate risk factors include nulliparity, BMI of 30 or above, age 35+, black race, low income, previous adverse outcome in pregnancy, more than 10 years since last pregnancy, and mom or sister had preeclampsia,*

*Ask all patients if they're taking prenatal vitamins AND low-dose aspirin.*

**What is considered low income for pregnant women?**

*Low income is a broad term but is generally thought to be anyone who is pregnant and on Medicaid.*

**What is the gestational cut off for starting aspirin to receive benefits?**

*LDA therapy can be initiated anytime between 12-28 weeks' gestation, with max benefit provided between 12-16 weeks' gestation.*

**How can health equity practitioners play a role in aiding this initiative?**

*Raise awareness about the benefits of LDA in preventing pregnancy-related complications, especially in communities with higher risk factors (black race, low income).*

*Promote cultural competence by ensuring prenatal care is delivered in a respectful and culturally sensitive manner.*

*Advocate for policies that promote equitable maternal care, including increasing access to prenatal care and medications for underserved populations.*

*Promote health literacy in underserved communities and provide resources and support to help patients make informed decisions about prenatal care.*