



Pregnancy Early Access Center

## Value-Based Model for Urgent Pregnancy Care

### Our Call to Action

Miscarriage is the most common complication of early pregnancy, affecting 1 in 5 pregnancies. There are 1 million miscarriages per year in the United States, and 2,700 women experience a miscarriage each day. We see 3,000 visits a year for miscarriage and related symptoms at the Penn Medicine Emergency Departments (ED) in Center City, Philadelphia.

Improved technology in home pregnancy testing means that women know sooner than ever that they are pregnant. Despite this, prenatal care still does not start until late in the first trimester, so women are left with a gap in care – a gap at a critical time when most miscarriages occur. As a result, many women turn to the ED for care. However, miscarriage is rarely a medical emergency, and the ED is not the place for patients who need emotional care and counseling on complex decision-making. Patients wind up seeing multiple care teams with numerous hand-offs and delays, creating a traumatic experience for expectant parents. Our data show that women sent to the emergency department actually have a longer treatment course than women who are able to be seen in the ambulatory setting – these women spend 1-2 additional weeks of their lives trying to get their miscarriage managed.

### An Evidence-Based Solution

PEACE is an integrated family planning and urgent pregnancy care model that fills this gap in care. It is a first-in-the-nation, office-based care model for the diagnosis and management of early pregnancy complications that transforms the human and financial cost of miscarriage care. We shift care from the ED and operating rooms to a lower risk, supportive office-based setting where women receive timely, expert, comprehensive care preconceptionally and during early pregnancy. The emotional burden of miscarriage is intense, so we integrate emotional and medical care through emotional screenings and specialized clinician training.

### Transforming the human and financial cost of miscarriage

#### Traditional miscarriage model



## **Return on Investment**

Fifteen years of research backs the PEACE model and shows that office-based management saves, on average, \$500 to \$1000 per patient. No one has made the model a reality in the U.S. until now. Our first outpatient location had an increase of 25% in patient volume in their first year without marketing. Based on our value-based model, we have scaled the PEACE model to three locations at Penn Medicine. It's the right thing to do for our patients, the health of our communities, and sustainability of health care cost.

## **The PEACE Advantage**

Integrated, outpatient care for pregnancy loss is not a new idea, but it has been incredibly challenging to implement this model in practice. From our research, we learned that one of those roadblocks was provider concern over their ability to separate patients who need to be directed to the ED from those who are safe for outpatient care. So we invested to develop the PEACE triage algorithm, six questions that can shift over 50% of patients from the ED to PEACE while keeping 100% of patients who needed the ED in place. We recently completed recruitment for a randomized, controlled trial of our algorithm across four ED settings and hundreds of women. Early trial data showed that only 4% of women screened needed ED care.

We have also focused on catching patients in time, testing our algorithm over the phone and in-person to prevent avoidable ED visits, cost, and poor experience. We have worked on search engine optimization and a referring provider toolkit based on our observations of patient and provider behavior when faced with miscarriage symptoms.

## **Next Steps**

We seek partners to help us attract women soon, to help them avoid the ED altogether, and to disseminate our model. We are creating a PEACE-in-a Box tool kit to help providers across the nation integrate the high-value, patient-centered model. PEACE is better for patients, health-systems, and payors, and with full scale-up, we believe it can help women have healthier pregnancies and healthier families. Help us to capture the promise of PEACE.