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Call for Expression of Interest:  
Join the Canadian Obstetric Survey System (CanOSS)  
Ontario Pilot with BORN

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BORN Ontario and CanOSS have partnered to establish a provincial approach focused on understanding and preventing severe maternal morbidity and mortality events from specific causes. The process is grounded in **principles of no-blame learning, collaboration, and patient-centeredness** with the overarching goal of strengthening maternal safety and system learning across Ontario. This goal can only be achieved with the participation of birthing facilities in the province who share this vision.

By becoming a pilot site, your hospital will be directly supporting the effort to reduce adverse clinical outcomes **beginning with a focus on severe peripartum hemorrhage**. Data submitted to CanOSS using the BORN Information System (BIS) will be used solely for the purpose of facilitating confidential reviews of severe maternal morbidity and mortality events provincially, from which system learning can be shared. Information submitted will be protected through BORN's robust privacy, security, and confidentiality safeguards.

Pilot sites will **submit one or more retrospective severe peripartum hemorrhage events** for review using a standardized CanOSS process in the BIS designed to identify clinical, organizational, and system-level factors that may contribute to adverse outcomes. Following completion of the pilot phase, participating sites will be invited to share their experiences related to event identification, data collection, and reporting processes which will support further system refinement. All participating birthing facilities will also be invited to a CanOSS-BORN Champions Meeting to contribute to collaborative reflection and co-design of the next phase of provincial implementation.

Submit your [Expression of Interest](#) by **July 13, 2026**.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What will pilot sites be asked to do?

Participating birthing facilities will:

- Obtain local leadership support for participation
- Complete an amended Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) with BORN Ontario
- Identify a local CanOSS champion
- Participate in training
- Submit at least one retrospective severe peripartum hemorrhage (SPH) event data through the BORN Information System
- Participate in evaluation and feedback activities

### How will information be submitted to BORN?

Event information will be entered manually through a dedicated CanOSS module within the BORN Information System. Although some hospitals currently submit data to BORN through electronic health record (EHR) integrations, those automated processes will not be used for CanOSS event reporting during the pilot.

### What is the timeline?

Timeline	Key Milestone
June - July 2026	Expression of Interest and local approvals
August 2026	Data Sharing Agreement amendment completed
September 2026	CanOSS champion identified and trained
October-December 2026	Retrospective SPH events submitted
Early 2027	Evaluation and feedback activities

## How will the information be used?

**The purpose of CanOSS is system learning, not research or performance management.**

Following submission, event information will undergo a confidential review process to identify contributing factors and opportunities for improvement. Findings will be synthesized to identify broader themes for the purpose of knowledge translation and mobilization to improve maternal care outcomes.

## How will data be protected?

CanOSS data collected within the BORN Information System (BIS) will be used solely by BORN Ontario and CanOSS team members and Assessors to support confidential and independent reviews of severe maternal morbidity and mortality events at the provincial level.

CanOSS data will be securely stored within the BIS, consistent with the storage and management of all perinatal data currently submitted by participating hospitals. All abstracted data will be governed by BORN policies and treated as Personal Health Information (PHI) in accordance with applicable legislation.

Given the sensitive nature of the information collected, additional safeguards include:

- **Direct patient identifiers will not be collected.** Each event will be assigned a unique identifier, allowing only the submitting hospital to re-identify the patient if required.
- CanOSS will operate as a separate module within the BIS and will not be linked to other BIS datasets.
- CanOSS team members and Assessors will be designated as agents of BORN Ontario and will be required to complete privacy training, sign confidentiality agreements, and comply with BORN's stringent privacy, security, and data use policies.

## Why should our hospital participate?

Participating hospitals will:

- Contribute to the development of Ontario's obstetric surveillance system
- Provide direct feedback that will shape future CanOSS activities in Ontario
- Help inform the design of the CanOSS data collection within the BIS before broader implementation
- Support provincial and national learning related to severe maternal morbidity and mortality
- Join a community of practice focused on improving maternal safety and outcomes

## How can we learn more/express interest?

Please submit this short [Expression of Interest form](#) by July 13, 2026. Questions can be directed to [canoss@bornontario.ca](mailto:canoss@bornontario.ca).

## Why are BORN Ontario and CanOSS partnering on this pilot?

BORN Ontario and CanOSS share a commitment to reducing maternal morbidity and mortality through evidence-informed system learning.

This pilot will leverage BORN's existing registry infrastructure and authority under PHIPA to support the secure collection and review of SPH events through a dedicated module within the BORN Information System.

## What is BORN?

[BORN Ontario](#) (Better Outcomes Registry & Network) is Ontario's prescribed registry for pregnancy, birth, newborn, and child health information. BORN collects, interprets, shares, and rigorously protects data to support quality improvement, system planning, research, and better health outcomes for families across Ontario.

## What is CanOSS?

The [Canadian Obstetric Survey System \(CanOSS\)](#) is a national initiative designed to improve understanding of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) in Canada. Through standardized review of serious pregnancy-related complications, CanOSS aims to identify clinical, organizational, and system-level factors that contribute to adverse outcomes and support improvements in maternal care.