

***The committee has identified this emerging issue for providers, healthcare facilities and organizations from the third quarter of Maternal Mortality Reviews:***

- Tennessee Department of Health should provide guidance about telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Facilities should increase the availability of Telemedicine visits to ensure specialty care of high-risk patients; and increase patient awareness of Telemedicine specialty visit options.
- Facilities should implement policies surrounding coordination of care for patients with significant mental health interventions postpartum to ensure more frequent follow- up to include immediate postpartum visits at 2 days postpartum and 2 weeks postpartum.
- Providers should complete the counseling on access to lethal means (CALM) training and educate patients and families on gun safety and the increased risk of suicide to pregnant and postpartum women. To access this free training go to:  
<https://zerosuicidetraining.edc.org/enrol/index.php?id=20>
- Families should emphasize gun safety in the home when there is a known history of suicide attempts or mental health disorder before, during and after pregnancy.
- The Office of Criminal Justice Programs and the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence should continue efforts to educate the public about the public health crisis of intimate partner violence, power and control dynamics in these relationships and their potential for lethality. They should also provide education surrounding community resources and how to access services.