**PROBLEM**

**RISING RATE OF BABIES ELECTIVELY DELIVERED PRIOR TO 39 WEEKS**
currently estimated at 10-15% of all deliveries, placing babies at risk for:
- Breathing problems, including respiratory distress syndrome
- Feeding difficulties
- Incomplete brain development

**WHY IT'S HAPPENING:**
- Mothers incorrectly thinking that 34-36 weeks is full term
- Convenience for mother and/or doctor
- Concerns of being overdue or having a larger than average baby

**SOLUTIONS**

**2008 MEASURE**
Measure developed by HCA, endorsed by NQF, and adopted by The Joint Commission to reduce elective deliveries before 39 weeks.

**2011 ACT**
- **FOCUS ON MEASUREMENT**
- **EVIDENCE-BASED TOOLS & PRACTICES**
- **CONSUMER MESSAGING**

NQF convened a multistakeholder Action Team created to focus on maternity care and reduce elective deliveries.

**2014 IMPROVE**
The Joint Commission implemented an accreditation requirement that includes reporting of the 39 weeks measure. Many hospitals have opted to implement a “hard stop” policy that prohibits physicians from delivering babies before 39 weeks on an elective basis.

**RESULTS**

**2014 Leapfrog survey shows that**
early elective deliveries (EED) dropped from 17 to 4.6% between 2010 and 2013

**...AND RESEARCH SHOWS THAT**
Reducing EEDs to less than 2% will avoid approximately

**500,000 NICU DAYS**

**73% IMPROVEMENT**

**SAVE $1B IN HEALTHCARE COSTS ANNUALLY**