

Maternal Levels of Care Verification

Delivering Confidence Across All Levels of Maternal Care



A verification program to help reduce maternal morbidity and mortality outcomes by ensuring women receive risk-appropriate care.

Get ahead of the game by achieving Maternal Levels of Care Verification.

Collaborating with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), The Joint Commission offers the verification program to facilities that provide obstetric and maternal-fetal medicine care. The verification program was developed using ACOG's Levels of Maternal Care Obstetric Care Consensus (OCC) document, which includes comprehensive uniform definitions, a standardized description of maternity facility capabilities and personnel, and a framework for

integrated systems that address maternal health needs from basic to high-risk.

The verification program aims to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality by encouraging the growth and evolution of systems that help standardize perinatal regionalization and risk-appropriate maternal care.



A Path to Standardizing, Implementing and Improving Regionalized Systems of Care

Several states have passed legislation to establish levels of maternal care designations for all hospitals that provide maternity care. And more states are expected to do the same.



The U.S. is ranked 59th in the world for maternal mortality outcomes.¹



Maternal Levels of Care Verification aims to dramatically improve that position by promoting collaboration among facilities and providers.

¹ World Health Organization, 2019.



LEVEL OF CARE ASSESSMENT

Through the Maternal Levels of Care Verification program, Joint Commission experts provide an objective assessment of a facility's capabilities. By verifying that a hospital accepts only the patients it has the expertise, equipment, and resources to care for, Maternal Levels of Care Verification can help facilitate safer, successful births and maternal outcomes. With verification, a facility can strengthen the community's confidence of its services and treatments.



Level I: Basic Care

Care for low to moderate-risk pregnancies, demonstrating the ability to detect, stabilize, and initiate management of unanticipated maternal-fetal or neonatal problems that occur during the antepartum, intrapartum, or postpartum period until the patient can be transferred to a facility at which the specialty maternal care is available

Level II: Specialty Care

Level I, plus moderate- to high-risk antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum conditions

Level III: Subspecialty Care

Levels I and II, plus care for more complex maternal medical conditions, obstetric complications, and fetal conditions

Level IV: Regional Perinatal Health Care Centers

Levels I, II, III, plus on-site medical and surgical care of the most complex maternal conditions and critically ill pregnant women and fetuses throughout antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum care



Reduce Risks and Improve Outcomes

Maternal Levels of Care Verification validates that a hospital has what's needed to mitigate and respond to risks that lead to higher morbidity and mortality in mothers and infants.



The Right Resources



The Right Staff



The Right Equipment



The Right Processes

Verification helps ensure patients get matched with the appropriate level of care needed to attain optimal outcomes.

The program encourages state and regional authorities to work together, with the input from area obstetric care providers. It facilitates an appropriate coordinated system of care and policies (including well-defined thresholds for transferring women to higher levels of care facilities) to improve maternal care outcomes in communities. Some highlights include:

- Provides a standardized description of maternity facility capabilities and personnel
- Provides a framework for integrated systems that address maternal health needs from basic to high-risk
- Confirms hospitals have a plan for assessing risk and referring patients to a higher level of care facility in the event of unexpected obstetric emergencies
- Enables EMS to know which facilities have the appropriate services, staff, and equipment needed to care for maternal patients who have developed complications
- Promotes collaboration among area health care organizations with differing levels of maternal care
- Encourages Levels III and IV organizations to provide education and training to Levels I and II

What to Expect

Maternal Levels of Care Verification involves a comprehensive on-site review to verify the level of care provided at a hospital.



- ✓ Levels I, II – 1-day assessment by one Joint Commission reviewer
 - ✓ Levels III, IV – 2-day assessment by one Joint Commission reviewer
- As part of the verification process, organizations are required to:**
- ✓ Follow Evidence-Based Practices
 - ✓ Have a Performance Improvement plan



FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The assessment also verifies that agreements are in place with providers of other levels of care to help ensure the smooth transfer of patients in need of advanced services.

The Joint Commission provides you valuable feedback and recommendations. Our collaborative approach allows your organization to improve outcomes for your patients, develop stronger relationships with other maternal care providers in your area, and build community confidence in the care you offer.





How Verification Is Different from Accreditation and Certification



| ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

The Joint Commission has long been the most recognized, respected name in accreditation and certification for a broad range of specialties. Our accreditation and certification programs **evaluate providers' and health care systems' quality of care and performance through in-depth surveys, detailed data analyses, and ongoing monitoring.**



| VERIFICATION

Maternal Levels of Care Verification assesses a facility's care level based on ACOG standards and requirements. It **helps to assure stakeholders that providers have the clinical capabilities and expertise to safely provide the services they offer.** It also facilitates collaboration between providers, hospitals, and EMS so that high-risk patients get routed to facilities equipped to handle complex or emergent obstetric cases.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE, ADVANCE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Contact us at **630-792-5291** or email verification@jointcommission.org to learn more about the advantages of Maternal Levels of Care Verification for your organization or visit our [website](#).

Maternal Levels of Care Verification is offered by The Joint Commission in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



LEADING
the way to



The Joint Commission Enterprise envisions a future of zero harm and is committed to helping make it a reality. We believe zero harm is achievable and we're *leading the way to zero*® by helping hospitals like yours transform the way they work to prevent harm.

Examples of zero include zero patient falls, zero complications of care, zero infections, zero patient safety events, zero harm to employees, and zero missed opportunities to provide exemplary care.

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