



Florida EMS

Perinatal Readiness

Perinatal Ready Program Guide

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Introduction

The Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program is designed to acknowledge and enhance the capability of emergency medical services (EMS) providers in managing peripartum emergencies. This program aims to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes by ensuring that EMS agencies have essential protocols/policies, training, strong partnerships and collaboration, and quality assurance/improvement standards for perinatal patient care. It also seeks to provide resources for EMS agencies to identify referral opportunities for care of pregnant and postpartum women, including the Florida Telehealth Maternity Care program. By ensuring that EMS agencies are well-prepared to handle perinatal emergencies, this program can have a significant impact in reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

**Agencies are eligible for a three-year designation in one of the following two tiers:
Perinatal Ready and Advanced Perinatal Ready.**

Benefits of recognition include:

- Formal acknowledgement through certificates and public announcements
- Increased credibility and trust from patients and healthcare partners
- Eligibility for grants or funding opportunities related to maternal health initiatives
- Access to specialized continuing education resources
- Increased awareness of resources available to support EMS agencies in connecting women to non-emergent care when appropriate

Please review this guide for information and resources necessary to apply for recognition.

For questions, please contact the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee via FPQC@usf.edu

Background

There is growing national attention to increase capacity for EMS agencies to address emergencies in non-obstetric settings. Recently, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) released new content on OB Emergencies in Non-OB Settings with specific tools for use by EMS. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing new Conditions of Participation rules requiring hospitals with emergency services to have adequate provisions and protocols for treating pregnant, birthing, and postpartum women.

This Recognition Program was created by a partnership between the Florida Association of EMS Medical Directors, Florida EMS Advisory Council, Florida Center for EMS, the Florida Emergency Nurses Association, and the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

Program Criteria

Category	Perinatal Ready	Advanced Perinatal Ready	Elements
Protocols and Policies	Agency has at least three agency-wide peripartum policies or protocols that include peripartum topics listed in “required elements” that have been reviewed or updated within the previous two years.	Agency has agency-wide peripartum policies or protocols that include <i>all</i> peripartum topics listed that have been reviewed or updated within the previous two years. Includes at least 1 policy created collaboratively with area birthing hospital or other external organization.	Written policy or protocol that includes peripartum emergencies, complications, and post-delivery needs on the following topics: • Severe hypertension • Eclampsia • OB hemorrhage • Childbirth emergencies • Neonatal resuscitation • Equipment and medication including obstetric kits, neonatal resuscitation equipment, and medications for hemorrhage • Preplanned destination /transfer policy
Training	Agency requires a minimum of 4 hours of training every 2 years on peripartum topics.	Agency requires a minimum of 4 hours of training every 2 years with requirement that agencies train (at least some hours) in collaboration with local hospitals or organizations.	Track training topics/agendas and attendance, skill sheets. Topics may include critical obstetric and childbirth emergencies such as breech presentation, shoulder dystocia, umbilical cord prolapse, and placental abruption. Additional areas of focus could involve current protocols and policies, essential equipment and medication considerations, neonatal resuscitation practices, and transfer simulation drills designed to enhance team coordination and readiness.
Quality Assurance	Agency has process for review of peripartum charts and protocols with agency quality assurance committee.	Agency has a process for reviewing peripartum charts and protocols, a process to track obstetric outcomes across the continuum of care, and a process for quality improvement projects.	Written description of your quality assurance process specific to peripartum readiness. Copy of peripartum-specific quality improvement plan.

Collaboration	Agency collaborates once per year with an external agency (birthing center, hospital obstetric provider[s]).	Agency demonstrates meaningful, routine (more than once per year) collaboration with external partners and active participation with obstetric care providers.	Collaboration could include: • Post-event debriefs with feedback loops with obstetric care providers • Implementing structured handoffs between EMS and OB providers • Education sessions/training on clinical topics • Simulation drills on clinical issues or community birth transfers, including debrief sessions. • Quality assurance/quality improvement meetings, and/or mechanism for feedback and hospital data exchange • Co-creation of protocols/policies with obstetric providers
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Application Process

Agencies interested in applying for Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition must: 1) Review this guide and complete the supporting documentation checklist, 2) complete the [online application](#), including upload of documentation and signed attestation form, and 3) participate in a virtual verification meeting.

If you are unable to access the online application, please contact the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) at FPQC@usf.edu. The checklists and forms in this application guide are solely for reference to preview what will be asked in the online application. Applicants will have the opportunity to submit all requested information and supporting documentation in the online application.

After online submission, applicants will receive an email confirmation acknowledging successful receipt of the application. After the application is reviewed, a virtual verification visit will be scheduled. If further information is requested, the agency will be contacted.

Supporting Documentation Checklist

To demonstrate that the agency has met all of the criteria for the level of recognition that they are applying for, the applicant will be asked to submit specific document(s) and/or provide a written description. Each attachment must be labeled with the name of the attachment, agency's name, and primary contact's name.

Category	Perinatal Ready	Advanced Perinatal Ready
Protocols and Policies	☐ Copy of minimum of 3 policies that include obstetrics/neonates with date of review or update.	☐ Copy of all obstetric and neonatal clinical treatment and process protocols, including date of review/update. ☐ Documentation or attestation of collaborative creation (and primary contact at organization).
Training	☐ Documentation of requirement to train minimum of 4 hours every 2 years on peripartum topics. ☐ Training agendas, attendance logs, and applicable skill sheets showing that training requirements have been met within the past 2 years.	☐ Documentation of requirement to train minimum of 4 hours every 2 years on peripartum topics. ☐ Training agendas, attendance logs, and applicable skill sheets showing: 1) training requirement has been met <i>and</i> 2) collaboration with local hospitals or organizations.
Quality Assurance	☐ Copy of written process for review of peripartum charts and protocols with agency quality assurance committee.	☐ Description of your quality assurance process specific to peripartum readiness. ☐ Copy of peripartum specific quality improvement plan.
Collaboration	☐ Documentation, including list of attendees and dates, of once per year collaboration with an external agency on applicable topics. Documentation could include: - Meeting minutes - Post-event reports - Co-created policies	☐ Documentation, including list of attendees and dates, of ongoing (more than once per year), meaningful collaboration with an external agency on applicable topics. Documentation could include: - Meeting minutes - Post-event reports - Co-created policies

Attestation Form – *Perinatal Ready*

The attestation should be completed by the appropriate Agency Administrator (e.g., chief operating officer, administrator, director, president).

By signing the attestation, I attest that the following is true:

- My agency has at least three agency-wide peripartum policies or protocols that have been reviewed or updated within the previous 2 years.
- My agency requires a minimum four hours of training every 2 years on peripartum topics and has met this requirement within the previous 2 years.
- My agency has a process of reviewing peripartum charts and protocols with our agency quality assurance committee.
- My agency collaborates once per year with an external agency such as a birthing hospital, birth center, and/or obstetric provider.

By signing the attestation, I understand that the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program is voluntary, the decision to participate will in no way impact EMS licensure, and that the agency's recognition status will be determined by the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee.

Print First and Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attestation Form – *Advanced Perinatal Ready*

The attestation should be completed by the appropriate Agency Administrator (e.g., chief operating officer, administrator, director, president).

By signing the attestation, I attest that the following is true:

- My agency has agency-wide peripartum policies or protocols on all peripartum topics including emergencies, complications, and post-delivery needs. These policies/protocol have been reviewed or updated within the previous 2 years, and at least one was created collaboratively with a birthing hospital or other external organization.
- My agency requires a minimum four hours of training every 2 years on peripartum topics and has met this requirement within the previous 2 years. At least some of these training hours were in collaboration with local hospitals, care providers, or organizations.
- My agency has process for reviewing peripartum charts and protocols, a process to track obstetric outcomes across the continuum of care, and a process for peripartum quality improvement projects.
- My agency is involved in meaningful, routine (more than once per year) collaboration with external peripartum partners/agencies and active participation with obstetric care providers.

By signing the attestation, I understand that the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program is voluntary, the decision to participate will in no way impact EMS licensure, and that the agency's recognition status will be determined by the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee

Print First and Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Award of Recognition

Approved

Agencies who are approved for recognition will receive an email notification, official letter, certificate, and authorization to order vehicle decals and challenge coins recognizing their readiness. Successful applicants, by virtue of applying for recognition, approve their organization name and general information to be posted on the FPQC website and acknowledge that the FPQC will be sharing a list of approved EMS Perinatal Ready agencies with the initiative funder, the Florida Department of Health. The recognition documents will be valid for three years from the date of notice of recognition. At the end of the three-year recognition cycle, the agency may apply for renewal by reCompleting the application process.

Deferred

If the application is incomplete or the information provided does not meet the criteria for the tier the applicant applied to, the individual who submitted the application will receive an email notification and official letter including the reason(s). Subsequently, the agency will be given the opportunity to work on application deficiencies and resubmit. The name of denied applicants will not be posted or shared in a public forum.

Appeals Process

Every effort will be made by the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee to assist an agency with meeting and maintaining the requirements of the Florida Prehospital Peripartum Readiness Recognition Program. If an agency has questions or concerns regarding their application decision, they may contact FPQC@usf.edu within 60 days of receiving the decision.

Revocation

Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition may be revoked if the agency, 1) Provided falsified information to gain recognition, or 2) Can no longer meet the program requirements.

If due to extenuating circumstances an agency recognized through the program is unable to maintain their recognition status, they may withdraw their recognition status. In this situation, the agency must notify the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee through a written notice or via email at FPQC@usf.edu. In the notification, please include information on the rationale for the decision.

Request for Level Advancement or Downgrade

Application for Advancement

To request advancement of the agency's level of recognition, the agency shall submit a new application.

Application for Downgrade

To voluntarily downgrade the agency's level of recognition, the agency shall submit a written request to the Florida Prehospital Perinatal Readiness Recognition Program Committee via email to fpqc@usf.edu detailing their reason to do so.

Resources

Resources will be available and updated at fpqc.org/perinatal-ready

- [ACOG Identifying and Managing Obstetric Emergencies in Nonobstetric Settings – EMS Model Guidelines](#) endorsed by the National Association of EMS Physicians, NAEMT, and the Paramedic Foundation
 - Postpartum Hemorrhage
 - Elevated Blood Pressure in Pregnancy and Postpartum
 - Eclampsia
 - EMS Information Sheet
- [EMS Sample Protocol Hypertension and Seizures in Pregnancy and Postpartum Periods](#)
- Sarasota County Fire Department Hypertension in Pregnancy Protocol
- [AAP and American Heart Association Neonatal Resuscitation Protocol](#)
- [SAMHSA Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder and Their Infants](#)

Training

- [Florida Center for EMS: Obstetrics for Prehospital Professionals](#) – self-paced online module

Professional Resources for Patient Referral and Care

- [Florida Telehealth Maternity Care Program](#) – enhanced services for women who are pregnant and up to one year postpartum
- [Healthy Start CONNECT](#) – connect families to prenatal, newborn, and parenting resources
- [FL BH IMPACT](#) – maternal and perinatal mental health resources
 - Provider consultation line: 833-951-0296 available Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm ET