



Maternal and Neonatal Designation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my hospital required to apply for a designation?

We feel that this program will improve quality of care to create better maternal and neonatal outcomes in our state. With that being said, we highly **recommend** each hospital participate. Currently though, it is **not** a requirement.

2. What level can my hospital apply for?

If you apply for a designation, you are required to apply for the level of care you have been authorized to provide, by the Georgia Department of Community Health Certificate of Need program. For example, a facility that has a certificate of need to provide Level II maternal/neonatal services can only apply to be designated as a Level II Maternal and/or Neonatal Center. The only exception is that a Level of Care III hospital may apply for a Level of Care IV designation after they have been surveyed and meet the standards of the Joint Commission (maternal) and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics (neonatal).

3. How do I apply for a Level I Neonatal Center Designation?

Level I hospitals that seek **neonatal** designation should contact DPH [Neonatal Designation Program-LOC I](#). The AAP does not survey Level I Neonatal Centers.

4. How do I apply for a Maternal Center Designation?

Hospitals seeking designation will apply to The Joint Commission (TJC) Maternal Verification Program [The Joint Commission Maternal Verification Program](#)

5. How do I apply for a Level II, Level III, or Level IV Neonatal Center Designation?

Hospitals seeking designation as a Level II, Level III, or Level IV Neonatal Center will apply to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [NICU Verification Program](#).

6. How much does it cost to apply for a Maternal and Neonatal Center Designation?

- **Level I Maternal/Neonatal Designation**
 - DPH will cover the entire cost of the survey and three year annual fee
- **Level II, Level III, and Level IV Maternal Designation**
 - DPH has a partnership with TJC to cover a portion of the cost of the survey. This is based on the level of survey needed.
- **Level II, Level III, and Level IV Neonatal Designation**
 - DPH has a partnership with AAP to cover a portion of the cost of the survey. This is based on the level of survey needed.

7. What happens after TJC/AAP sends our site survey report to our hospital?

You will have 90 days to submit your site survey report, additional documentation correcting any deficiencies noted in your site survey report, and a data report to DPH. DPH will issue the final determination.

8. How can I advertise our designation?

If your facility is designated by DPH, you may advertise that you are a DPH Designated Maternal Center or a DPH Designated Neonatal Center and it will be posted on the DPH website. If you do not receive a designation from DPH, you are still able to advertise the level of care you have through the Certificate of Need program.

9. How long does the designation last?

Your designation lasts for 3 years unless it is surrendered, suspended, or revoked prior to that time. At that point, you will either choose to let it lapse or apply for another designation.