

Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. Your hospital can choose whether to apply for a Neonatal Center Designation, a Maternal Center Designation, or both.

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 perinatal services can only apply to be a DPH Designated Level II Maternal and/or Neonatal Center or a Level I Maternal and/or Neonatal Center.

3. How do I apply for a Level II or Level III Maternal Center Designation?

DPH is currently developing the application process. Hospitals will be notified when the application is open.

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

DPH is currently developing the application process. Hospitals will be notified when the application is open.

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

If you are applying for a Level II Neonatal Center Designation, you will begin your application by applying through the American Academy of Pediatrics [NICU Verification Program](#).

6. How much does it cost to apply for a Level II or Level III Neonatal Center Designation?

DPH is providing funds to cover a portion of the cost to hospitals to use the AAP NICU Verification Program. The first 10 Level II and the first 12 Level III hospitals to submit a signed agreement to AAP each year will pay AAP \$7,000. If you are not one of the first 10 Level II or first 12 Level III applicants, you may either pay the full price of the site survey or apply for a designation the following year. DPH anticipates most hospitals will be able to use the reduced rate within two years.

7. What happens after 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. Do I need to do anything after our designation has been issued?

You will be required to submit an annual data report each year.

9. 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. 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. This designation will also be posted on the DPH website.

10. 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.