



RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 511-5 HEALTH PROMOTION

SUBJECT 511-5-13 DESIGNATION OF PERINATAL CENTERS

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Rule 511-5-13-.01 Scope and Purpose

- (1) These regulations are enacted pursuant to Sections 50 through -57 of Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to establish a program that encourages the improvement of quality of care to create better maternal and neonatal outcomes.
- (2) The purpose of these regulations is to establish separate criteria for three maternal and three neonatal levels of care and procedures by which a perinatal facility may request approval to be a designated facility which has achieved a particular DPH designated level of care.
- (3) These regulations are not intended to prevent any perinatal facility from providing medical services to a woman or infant.
- (4) No perinatal facility shall hold itself out as or advertise itself to the public as having achieved a DPH designated level of care as a maternal or neonatal center unless it has been so designated by the Department.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57.

Rule 511-5-13-.02 Definitions

- (1) “Designated facility” means a perinatal facility that has been inspected and approved by the Department pursuant to these regulations as meeting its established criteria for a particular maternal or neonatal level of care.
- (2) “Perinatal facility” means a hospital, clinic, or birthing center that provides maternal or neonatal health care services.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57.

Rule 511-5-13-.03 Designation

- (1) A perinatal facility seeking designation as a maternal or neonatal center shall submit a written application to the Department through an application process to be determined by the Department, and shall provide upon request such additional information, documents, or inspections as the Department may deem necessary.
- (2) A perinatal facility may apply for designation or re-designation as a maternal and a neonatal center or may apply for designation or re-designation separately as a maternal center or a neonatal center.
- (3) Designation shall be for a period of three years.
- (4) A designated facility shall be subject to periodic review by the Department and shall permit on-site inspection and submit data to the Department as may be required by the Department to evaluate whether the designated center has maintained compliance with the requirements of these rules or applicable statutes.
- (5) The Department may suspend or revoke a designation, after notice and hearing, if the Department determines that the perinatal facility is not in compliance with the requirements of these rules or applicable statutes.
- (6) The Department shall use the following notice and hearing procedures:
 1. The Department shall provide written notice to the perinatal facility of any suspension or revocation taken pursuant to this regulation.
 2. All suspensions or revocations by the Department are effective twenty days after the perinatal facility’s receipt of the Department’s notice, unless the perinatal facility makes a timely request for a hearing. In the event a timely request for a hearing is received, the action shall become effective upon the Department’s final decision.
 3. The perinatal facility may submit a written request for an administrative

hearing on the suspension or revocation within twenty days from the date the perinatal facility receives the notice of suspension or revocation.

4. The Department shall provide an administrative hearing on the suspension or revocation if the perinatal facility's written request is delivered to and received by the Department's Women's Health Program no later than twenty days from the date the perinatal facility receives the notice of suspension or revocation.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57.

Rule 511-5-13-.04 Designation Criteria for Maternal Centers

A maternal center must meet all standards applicable to the relevant level of care established by The Joint Commission Maternal Levels of Care Verification Program as amended, restated, supplemented, or otherwise modified from time to time.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57.

Rule 511-5-13-.05 Designation Criteria for Neonatal Centers

A neonatal center must meet all standards applicable to the relevant level of care established by the American Academy of Pediatrics Standards for Neonatal Levels of Care as amended, restated, supplemented, or otherwise modified from time to time.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57.

Rule 511-5-13-.06 Confidentiality

The application, supporting documentation, information provided during a site visit, and all documents, reports, data, and information related to the designation process described by these rules shall be deemed confidential, except that the Department may in its sole discretion release such data or information, in de-identified form or for research purposes determined by the Department to have scientific merit. Under no circumstances may information provided during the designation process as described by this Rule be released in such a manner as to lead to the identification of any perinatal facility.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-50 through -57; O.C.G.A. § 31-5-5.