



Program Concept	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV
General Eligibility Program Specific Eligibility	The obstetric unit must be in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress Any perinatal care program	The obstetric unit must be in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress Any perinatal care	The obstetric unit must be in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress Any perinatal care program	The obstetric unit must be in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress Any perinatal care program
	 may apply for Joint Commission maternal levels of care verification under the standards in this manual if the following requirements are met: The perinatal care program is provided within a Joint Commission-accredited hospital or critical access hospital, or it is provided within an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including applicable Medicare Conditions of Participation. 	program may apply for Joint Commission maternal levels of care verification under the standards in this manual if the following requirements are met: • The perinatal care program is provided within a Joint Commission– accredited hospital or critical access hospital, or it is provided within an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including applicable Medicare Conditions of Participation.	 may apply for Joint Commission maternal levels of care verification under the standards in this manual if the following requirements are met: The perinatal care program is provided within a Joint Commission- accredited hospital or critical access hospital, or it is provided within an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including applicable Medicare Conditions of Participation. 	 may apply for Joint Commission maternal levels of care verification under the standards in this manual if the following requirements are met: The perinatal care program is provided within a Joint Commission- accredited hospital or critical access hospital, or it is provided within an organization that is complicable federal laws, including applicable Medicare Conditions of Participation.
Participation Requirements	VPR.12 The perinatal program is part of an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including Medicare Conditions of Participation.	VPR.12 The perinatal program is part of an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including Medicare Conditions of Participation.	VPR.12 The perinatal program is part of an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including Medicare Conditions of Participation.	VPR.12 The perinatal program is part of an organization that is compliant with applicable federal laws, including Medicare Conditions of Participation.
Research	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required





Leadership	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02 Perinatal services leadership facilitate collaboration with facilities in the region, analysis and review of system perinatal outcome and quality data, provision of outreach education, and assistance with quality.	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02 Perinatal services leadership facilitate collaboration with facilities in the region, analysis and review of system perinatal outcome and quality data, provision of outreach education, and assistance with quality.
Obstetric Nursing Leadership	A nursing leader with perinatal nursing care experience is responsible for management of the program's perinatal nursing care services. See MLCPM.02, EP 6	A nursing leader with perinatal nursing care experience is responsible for management of the program's perinatal nursing care services. See MLCPM.02, EP 6	See MLCPM.02, EP 9 A nursing leader with perinatal nursing care experience is responsible for management of the program's perinatal nursing care services. See MLCPM.02, EP 6	See MLCPM.02, EP 9 A nursing leader with perinatal nursing care experience is responsible for management of the program's perinatal nursing care services. The perinatal nursing care services' leader has an advanced degree and national certification. See MLCPM.02, EP 6





Obstetric Provider Leadership	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric services. The program's obstetric services' leader is a board- eligible or board-certified physician with experience in obstetric care. See MLCPM.02, EP 3	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric services. The program's obstetric services' leader is a board-eligible or board- certified physician with experience in obstetric care. See MLCPM.02, EP 3	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric services. The program's obstetric services' leader is a board- eligible or board-certified physician with experience in obstetric care or a board- eligible or board certified maternal-fetal medicine physician. See MLCPM.02, EP 3	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric services. The program's obstetric services' leader is a board- eligible or board-certified physician with experience in obstetric care or a board- eligible or board certified maternal-fetal medicine physician. See MLCPM.02, EP 3
Anesthesia Services Leadership	A qualified provider with anesthesia privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric anesthesia services. See MLCPM.02, EP 4	A qualified provider with anesthesia privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric anesthesia services. See MLCPM.02, EP 4	A qualified provider with anesthesia privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric anesthesia services. The director of obstetric anesthesia services is a board-certified anesthesiologist with obstetric anesthesia fellowship training or experience in obstetric anesthesia.	A qualified provider with anesthesia privileges is responsible for management of the program's obstetric anesthesia services. The director of obstetric anesthesia services is a board-certified anesthesiologist with obstetric anesthesia fellowship training or experience in obstetric anesthesia.
Maternal Fetal Medicine Leadership	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for the management of the program's maternal-fetal medicine specialist program in organizations that have a	A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for the management of the program's maternal- fetal medicine specialist program in organizations	See MLCPM.02, EP 4 A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for the management of the program's maternal- fetal medicine specialist program in organizations	See MLCPM.02, EP 4 A qualified provider with obstetric privileges is responsible for the management of the program's maternal- fetal medicine specialist program in organizations





	maternal-fetal-medicine specialist program. See MLCPM.02, EP 5	that have a maternal- fetal-medicine specialist program. See MLCPM.02, EP 5	that have a maternal-fetal- medicine specialist program. The director of the maternal-fetal medicine program is a board-eligible or board-certified maternal- fetal medicine physician. See MLCPM.02, EP 5	that have a maternal-fetal- medicine specialist program. The director of the maternal-fetal medicine program is a board-eligible or board-certified maternal- fetal medicine physician. See MLCPM.02, EP 5
Support from ancillary departments	The program provides support from other departments such as anesthesia, respiratory, radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, and blood bank services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Suitable backup systems and plans are in place that meet the emergent needs of the mother. a. An anesthesia provider with the capability to administer labor analgesia and surgical anesthesia is readily available at all times, per the organization's policy. b. The program has the ability to initiate a massive transfusion protocol and has a process in place to obtain more blood components, including platelets, if needed. c. The program has limited obstetric ultrasonography with interpretation readily available at all times, per the organization's policy.	The program provides support from other departments such as anesthesia, respiratory, radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, and blood bank services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Suitable backup systems and plans are in place that meet the emergent needs of the mother. Meet the requirements for Maternal Level of Care I and the following: d. Radiologic services with interpretation are readily available per the organization's policy and include computed tomography scan, magnetic resonance imaging, non-obstetric ultrasound imaging, standard obstetric ultrasound imaging, and maternal echocardiography.	The program provides support from other departments such as anesthesia, respiratory, radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, and blood bank services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Suitable backup systems and plans are in place that meet the emergent needs of the mother. Meet the requirements for Maternal Level of Care II and the following: f. In-house availability of all blood components. g. Specialized obstetric ultrasound and fetal assessment, including Doppler studies, with interpretation readily available at all times, per the organization's policy. h. Basic interventional radiology (capable of performing uterine artery embolization),	The program provides support from other departments such as anesthesia, respiratory, radiology, ultrasound, laboratory, and blood bank services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Suitable backup systems and plans are in place that meet the emergent needs of the mother. Meet the requirements for Maternal Level of Care III and the following: I. On-site medical and surgical capabilities for complex maternal conditions. m. On-site intensive care unit care for obstetric patients who are primarily or comanaged by a maternal-fetal medicine team. (Co-management includes at least daily rounds by a maternal-fetal medicine specialist physician with interaction





		e. An anesthesiologist is readily available at all times, per the organization's policy.	readily available at all times, per the organization's policy. i. Appropriate personnel and equipment available on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide the capability to ventilate and monitor women in labor and delivery until they can be safely transferred to the intensive care unit. j. Availability of adult medical and surgical intensive care units that accept pregnant women and women in the postpartum period. The intensive care units are staffed by adult critical care providers on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. k. Board certified anesthesiologist is on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	with the intensive care unit team and other subspecialists with daily documentation) n. A board-certified anesthesiologist with obstetric anesthesia fellowship training or experience in obstetric anesthesia physically present on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Obstetric Services	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02, EP 1 The program has a designated	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02, EP 1	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02, EP 1	The program has dedicated leadership and staff necessary to meet the scope of care, treatment, and services it provides across the continuum of care based on the organization's verified Maternal Level of Care. See MLCPM.02, EP 1
	leader who is accountable for the perinatal care		The program has a designated leader who is	The program has a designated leader who is



program. This leader makes	The program has a	accountable for the	accountable for the
	designated leader who is	perinatal care	perinatal care
	accountable for the	program. This leader makes	program. This leader makes
6	perinatal care	certain that the program	certain that the program
	•		
· · ·	program. This leader	does the following:	does the following:
	makes certain that the	Provides integrated,	Provides integrated,
	program does the	coordinated, patient-	coordinated, patient-
	following:	centered care that	centered care that
poorpartain dato	• Provides integrated,	starts with prenatal	starts with prenatal
Provides early	coordinated, patient-	care and continues	care and continues
identification of high-risk	centered care that	through postpartum	through postpartum
pregnancies and births	starts with prenatal	care	care
and manages mothers'	care and continues	 Provides early 	 Provides early
risks at a level that	through postpartum	identification of high-	identification of high-
corresponds to the	care	risk pregnancies and	risk pregnancies and
program's capabilities	 Provides early 	births and manages	births and manages
For identified or	identification of high-	mothers' risks at a level	mothers' risks at a level
unanticipated high-risk	risk pregnancies and	that corresponds to the	that corresponds to the
pregnancies and births or	births and manages	program's capabilities	program's capabilities
maternal problems, the	mothers' risks at a	For identified or	For identified or
program provides direct	level that	unanticipated high-risk	unanticipated high-risk
care or stabilizes and	corresponds to the	pregnancies and births	pregnancies and births
safely transfers mothers	program's	or maternal problems,	or maternal problems,
who require care beyond	capabilities	the program provides	the program provides
	 For identified or 	direct care or stabilizes	direct care or stabilizes
provided by the	unanticipated high-	and safely transfers	and safely transfers
organization	risk pregnancies	mothers who require	mothers who require
Maintains a written	and births or	care beyond the scope	care beyond the scope
agreement for the	maternal problems,	of services provided by	of services provided by
transfer of or receiving of	the program	the organization	the organization
patients based on the	provides direct care	 Maintains a written 	 Maintains a written
organization's verified	or stabilizes and	 Maintains a written agreement for the 	 Maintains a written agreement for the
level of care	safely transfers		
	mothers who require	transfer of or receiving	transfer of or receiving
Plans for continuity of	care beyond the	of patients based on	of patients based on
health information include	-	the organization's	the organization's
sharing ongoing	scope of services	verified level of care	verified level of care
information about the	provided by the	Plans for continuity of	Plans for continuity of
mother's health status	organization	health information	health information
with permutal service	Maintains a written	include sharing ongoing	include sharing ongoing
providers and health care	agreement for the	information about the	information about the





 organizations involved ir their care. This includes making sure that prenat assessments and plans care are accessible at locations where the mother is planning to deliver or receive care, and the providers' office have access to the mother's postpartum information including transfer to a higher level of care Provides patient education and information about perinatal care services available to meet mothers' needs so that mothers can make informed decisions about their care Has ongoing quality improvement processes for making improvement to the program from prenatal to postpartum care 	 receiving of patients based on the of organization's verified level of care Plans for continuity of health information include sharing ongoing information about the mother's health status with perinatal service providers and health care organizations involved in their care. This includes making sure that prenatal assessments and plans of care are accessible at locations where the mother is planning to deliver or receive 	 mother's health status with perinatal service providers and health care organizations involved in their care. This includes making sure that prenatal assessments and plans of care are accessible at locations where the mother is planning to deliver or receive care, and the providers' offices have access to the mother's postpartum information including transfer to a higher level of care Provides patient education and information about perinatal care services available to meet mothers' needs so that mothers can make informed decisions about their care Has ongoing quality improvement processes for making improvements to the program from prenatal to postpartum care a. The program has the capability to accept maternal transports from lower levels of care for unanticipated high-risk pregnancies 	 mother's health status with perinatal service providers and health care organizations involved in their care. This includes making sure that prenatal assessments and plans of care are accessible at locations where the mother is planning to deliver or receive care, and the providers' offices have access to the mother's postpartum information including transfer to a higher level of care Provides patient education and information about perinatal care services available to meet mothers' needs so that mothers can make informed decisions about their care Has ongoing quality improvement processes for making improvements to the program from prenatal to postpartum care The program has the capability to accept maternal transports from lower levels of care for unanticipated high-risk pregnancies
---	--	---	--





				Ţ]
		 Has ongoing quality 		
		improvement		
		processes for		
		making		
		improvements to the		
		program from		
		prenatal to		
		postpartum care		
Transfer Practices	The program identifies and	The program identifies	The program has the	The program has the
	manages mothers who should	and manages mothers	capability to accept	capability to accept
	be transferred to	who should be	maternal transports from	maternal transports from
	another organization that	transferred to	lower levels of care for	lower levels of care for
	provides higher-level care	another organization that	unanticipated high-risk	unanticipated high-risk
	than the scope of the	provides higher-level care	pregnancies.	pregnancies.
	program's verified Maternal	than the scope of the		
	Levels of Care. The program	program's verified	See MLCPM.02, EP2	See MLCPM.02, EP2
	and transfer organization	Maternal Levels of Care.		
	establish effective	The program and transfer		
	communication before	organization establish		
	transfer, such as clear	effective communication		
	documentation	before transfer, such as		
	and timely exchange of	clear documentation		
	medical information, as well	and timely exchange of		
	as providing followup	medical information, as		
	information on the status of	well as providing followup		
	the mother after transfer.	information on the status		
		of the mother after		
	Management of mothers	transfer.		
	needing a higher level of care			
	also includes the	Management of mothers		
	following:	needing a higher level of		
	Having an established	care also includes the		
	relationship that provides	following:		
	for immediate	 Having an 		
	consultation with and	established		
	possible transfer to	relationship that		
	providers at an	provides for		
	organization with a higher	immediate		
	level of care (for example,	consultation with		
		and possible transfer		
	1		1	JJ





	 maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists) Being able to manage perinatal emergencies directly, by transfer, or by referral Demonstrating an ongoing relationship with referral hospitals for immediate transfer Providing timely assessment, stabilization, and treatment prior to transfer Timely initiation of the transfer to the higher level of care See MLCDF.05, EP 	 to providers at an organization with a higher level of care (for example, maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists) Being able to manage perinatal emergencies directly, by transfer, or by referral Demonstrating an ongoing relationship with referral hospitals for immediate transfer Providing timely assessment, stabilization, and treatment prior to transfer Timely initiation of the transfer to the higher level of care See MLCDF.05, EP 		
Registered Nurse Staffing	Program leaders are responsible for selecting, orienting, educating, and training perinatal staff. The program leaders identify critical competencies and education for the program's team members. MLCPM.06, EP4	Program leaders are responsible for selecting, orienting, educating, and training perinatal staff. The program leaders identify critical competencies and education for the program's team members. MLCPM.06, EP4	Program leaders are responsible for selecting, orienting, educating, and training perinatal staff. The program leaders identify critical competencies and education for the program's team members.	Program leaders are responsible for selecting, orienting, educating, and training perinatal staff. The program leaders identify critical competencies and education for the program's team members.





			Registered nurses receive special training and have experience in the management of women with complex and critical maternal illnesses and obstetric complications related to the population the program serves. MLCPM.06, EP4	Registered nurses receive special training and have experience in the management of women with complex and critical maternal illnesses and obstetric complications related to the population the program serves. The perinatal program maintains a close collaboration between intensive care unit nurses and obstetric nurses with expertise in caring for critically ill women. MLCPM.06, EP4
Interdisciplinary Team	The program has an interdisciplinary team that includes individuals with expertise in and/or knowledge about the program's specialized care, treatment, and services. The interdisciplinary team includes individuals and specialized services to support the care, treatment, and services provided by the program. The following individuals and specialized services are represented on the interdisciplinary team: • A qualified provider with obstetric privileges and appropriate training and expertise is readily	The program has an interdisciplinary team that includes individuals with expertise in and/or knowledge about the program's specialized care, treatment, and services. The interdisciplinary team includes individuals and specialized services to support the care, treatment, and services provided by the program. The individuals and specialized services required for Maternal Level of Care I are represented on the interdisciplinary team,	The program has an interdisciplinary team that includes individuals with expertise in and/or knowledge about the program's specialized care, treatment, and services. The interdisciplinary team includes individuals and specialized services to support the care, treatment, and services provided by the program. The individuals and specialized services required for Maternal Level of Care II are represented on the interdisciplinary team, plus the following individuals and specialized services:	The program has an interdisciplinary team that includes individuals with expertise in and/or knowledge about the program's specialized care, treatment, and services. The interdisciplinary team includes individuals and specialized services to support the care, treatment, and services provided by the program. The individuals and specialized services required for Maternal Level of Care III are represented on the interdisciplinary team, plus the following specialized services:









available, per the	gastroenterology,	
organization's policy, at all	internal medicine,	
times.	behavioral health, and	
• A registered pharmacist is	neonatology.	
readily available, per the		
organization's policy, at all	See MLCPM.07, EP1	
times.	,	
 Laboratory services for 		
immediately obtaining		
and processing		
appropriate samples and		
reporting urgent/		
emergent laboratory		
requests are immediately		
available, per the		
organization's policy, at all		
times.		
determining ABO blood		
group and Rh type,		
crossmatching blood, and		
performing antibody		
testing are readily		
available, per the		
organization's policy, at all		
times.		
See MLCPM.07, EP1		