**SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE**

**Template for Maternal Levels of Care Verification**

(Insert media contact information)

**(Organization name) named (Level I, II, III or IV) maternal care verified facility from The Joint Commission**

(CITY, State, Date) – The Joint Commission’s Maternal Levels of Care (MLC) Verification program, offered in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), has named (organization name) as a (Level I, II, III or IV) maternal care verified facility.

As a (Level I, II, III or IV) facility, (organization name) has demonstrated it can care for (insert level specific information).

(Organization name) underwent a comprehensive on-site review on (date) to verify the level of care provided. During the on-site verification visit, (organization name’s) capabilities related to maternity care were evaluated. Additionally, compliance with (organization name’s) policies were reviewed.

The MLC Verification program provides an objective assessment of a facility’s capabilities and verifies that a hospital has the expertise, equipment and resources in place for a patient’s specific needs and risk level. When complications arise, verification also confirms hospitals have agreements in place so the mother can be transferred to a higher-level facility with the appropriate level of care.

(Insert quote from organization leader)

(Insert specific examples of how organization has focused efforts on improving maternal care)

“The Joint Commission commends (organization name) for being named a (Level I, II, III or IV) maternal care verified facility and for its efforts to standardize maternal care and reduce maternal morbidity and mortality,” says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission. “The Maternal Levels of Care Verification program will help (organization name) strengthen regionalized care for mothers and babies in its community.”

The MLC Verification program was developed using ACOG’s Levels of Maternal Care Obstetric Care Consensus (OCC) clinical guidance, which includes comprehensive uniform definitions, a standardized description of maternity facility capabilities and personnel, and a framework for integrated systems that address maternal health needs. To learn more, visit [The Joint Commission website](https://www.jointcommission.org/accreditation-and-certification/certification/certifications-by-setting/hospital-certifications/maternal-levels-of-care-verification/).

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(Insert organization boilerplate)