



# APPROVED: New Perinatal Care Performance Measure

**Effective January 1, 2019**, The Joint Commission will require data collection for a new Perinatal Care (PC) performance measure in addition to the five currently required (see table below) for accredited hospitals with at least 300 live births per year and for all hospitals seeking Perinatal Care certification.

The new measure, **PC-06 Unexpected Complications in Term Newborns**, identifies the percentage of infants with unexpected newborn complications among full-term newborns with no preexisting conditions. The most important childbirth outcome for families is bringing home a healthy baby. While there have been measures developed to assess clinical practices and outcomes in preterm infants, there is a lack of metrics that assess the health outcomes of term infants who represent more than 90% of all births. The new measure is designed to address this gap and gauge adverse outcomes resulting in severe or moderate morbidity in otherwise healthy term infants without preexisting conditions.

Importantly, this metric also serves as a balancing measure for other maternal measures such as NTSV (Nulliparous, Term, Singleton, Vertex) cesarean rates and early elective delivery rates. The purpose of a balancing measure is to guard against any unanticipated or unintended consequences of quality improvement activities for these measures. The denominator excludes most serious fetal conditions that are “preexisting” (present before labor), including prematurity, multiple gestations, poor fetal growth, congenital malformations, genetic disorders, other specified fetal and maternal conditions, and infants exposed to maternal drug use in utero. The final denominator population consists of babies who are expected to do well following labor and delivery and go home routinely with their mothers.<sup>1</sup>

Specifications for the new measure will be detailed in the [Specifications Manual for Joint Commission National Quality Measures](#), Version 2018B, available in early August. Questions about these measures may be sent via the [Performance Measurement Network Q&A Forum](#).

## 2019 MEASURES FOR PERINATAL CARE

PC-01: Elective Delivery	Patients with elective vaginal deliveries or elective cesarean sections at $\geq 37$ and $< 39$ weeks of gestation completed
PC-02: Cesarean Birth	Nulliparous women with a term, singleton baby in a vertex position delivered by cesarean birth
PC-03: Antenatal Steroids	Patients at risk of preterm delivery at $\geq 24$ and $< 34$ weeks gestation receiving antenatal steroids prior to delivering preterm newborns
PC-04: Health Care–Associated Bloodstream Infections in Newborns	Staphylococcal and gram negative septicemias or bacteremias in high-risk newborns

PC-05: Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding	Exclusive breast milk feeding during the newborn's entire hospitalization
PC-06: Unexpected Complications in Term Newborns	The percentage of infants with unexpected newborn complications among full-term newborns with no preexisting conditions

---

## Reference

1. California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC). [Unexpected Complications in Term Newborns](#). Accessed Jul 16, 2018.