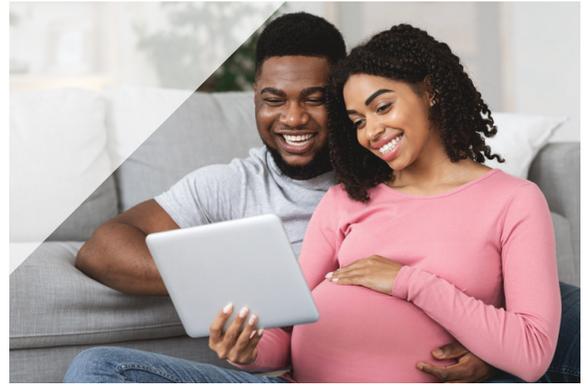


Maternal Levels of Care Verification



According to the CDC, over 700 women die each year in this country from problems related to pregnancy or delivery complications and two thirds of pregnancy-related deaths could be prevented. These data underscore the need to focus on the quality and safety of maternal care systems.

In 2019, a letter of agreement was signed between The Joint Commission and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) to collaborate on the development of maternal care programs. Joint Commission Maternal Levels of Care (MLC) verification is the first program to be developed under this collaboration. It will launch January 1, 2022.



Purpose

The purpose of Joint Commission MLC verification is to establish a complete and integrated system of perinatal regionalization and risk-appropriate maternal care using a classification system for the purposes of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality. The program is designed to verify organizational services, skills and capabilities. This program is important because there is no standardized process designed to evaluate hospital capabilities against the specific risk factors experienced by mothers.



Program Overview

Maternal Levels of Care:

- Level I (basic care)
- Level II (specialty care)
- Level III (subspecialty care)
- Level IV (regional perinatal health care centers)

Each level builds upon the previous level requiring organizations to demonstrate a higher level of capability, skill and competence. An organization seeking verification will select which level for which they would like to be verified.



The Joint Commission will conduct on-site surveys for MLC verification on a three-year verification cycle. MLC verification is open to acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals who are otherwise in compliance with CoPs and federal laws.

To discuss how recognizing Joint Commission Maternal Levels of Care verification can benefit you and your members, please contact Kimberly Clawson, Senior Associate Director, Payor Relations at kclawson@jointcommission.org.

Maternal Levels of Care Verification

