



Dear _____,

We are contacting you to ask for your [insert agency/agencies] to collaborate with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the Society for Maternal–Fetal Medicine (SMFM), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a new maternal health care initiative. Your state has already demonstrated its commitment to maternal and neonatal risk-appropriate care through your successful implementation of the CDC Levels of Care Assessment Tool (LOCATe). We hope that you will partner with us in an important opportunity to continue to advance maternal risk-appropriate care.

In February 2015, ACOG and SMFM jointly developed the document “Levels of Maternal Care.” This document promotes the development of relationships between institutions with different levels of care that support the delivery of maternal health care to pregnant women in facilities that meet their individual needs. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and SMFM are continuing to partner in creating a validation program based on the “Levels of Maternal Care” document to ensure that pregnant women receive the right care, at the right time, at the right place.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and SMFM are working to develop a process whereby hospitals can assess their level of maternity care services and participate in a voluntary verification program. This process is similar to certification programs that exist for trauma centers, stroke centers, and cancer centers. The following organizations have provided guidance and expert opinion for this project:

- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
- American College of Nurse–Midwives (ACNM)
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT)
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- National Perinatal Information Center (NPIC)

As part of this initiative, we began formulating an on-site survey instrument that assists in the evaluation of a facility’s level of maternal care services. We believe that CDC LOCATe, as a hospital self-assessment tool, could support initial information gathering for the ACOG/SMFM verification program. At this time, we are initiating a pilot project to validate the results from LOCATe and test our on-site verification instrument. Our goal over the next year is to complete 18 pilot validation surveys.

The goal of improving maternal care and pregnancy outcomes nationwide is shared by AAFP, ACNM, AHA, APT, AWHONN, NPIC, ACOG, SMFM, and the CDC. We recognize that by working together, we can be most effective. We look forward to hearing from you and collaborating to improve the maternal care and pregnancy outcomes in your state and across the nation.

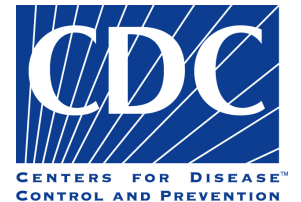
Welcome



LMC

Levels of Maternal Care

Right care • Right time • Right place





LMC

Levels of Maternal Care

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Thank You!





Levels of Maternal Care

The Levels of Maternal Care (LMC) program provides a classification system that standardizes maternal care according to different levels of risk. Originally outlined in the Obstetric Care Consensus document “Levels of Maternal Care,” LMC promotes the development of relationships between institutions with different levels of care that support the delivery of maternal health care to pregnant women in facilities that best meet their individual needs. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal–Fetal Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are partnering to create a validation program to ensure that pregnant women receive the right care, at the right time, at the right place.

A key part of the LMC program is regionalization of health care. Based on the model of stratified, regionalized care that has improved neonatal outcomes in recent decades, regionalization of maternal care will

- encourage collaboration of all perinatal team members.
- support high-quality care in rural or smaller communities.
- empower higher-level regional centers to support education, data capture, and quality improvement among referring facilities.
- consider the unique needs and resources of individual communities, states, or regions.
- foster cross-sector collaboration, strengthen the integration of health systems, and create more equitable communities.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal–Fetal Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working to develop a process whereby hospitals can assess their level of maternity care services and participate in a voluntary verification program. This process is similar to certification programs that exist for trauma centers, stroke centers, and cancer centers. The ultimate goal of the LMC program is to reduce rates of maternal morbidity and mortality in the United States, which have increased in the past 14 years.



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