



## Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Texas Perinatal Services Brings Expertise to Help Hospitals Comply with New Maternal Care Designation Requirements**

(March 28, 2018 – Austin, TX) Texas hospitals that provide care to mothers and babies must now meet new designated standards of care to receive Medicaid funding, as a result of rules adopted this month by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The new Hospital Level of Care Designations for Maternal Care were developed in response to House Bill 15, passed in 2013, which created levels of care designation for neonatal and maternal care in Texas hospitals. The bill also created neonatal and maternal care regions and required transfer agreements among hospitals. Hospitals seeking designation as a Level 2-4 NICU or maternal care provider must undergo periodic surveys by a state-approved survey provider. Level 1 providers may submit a form to request designation at the lowest level. Surveys verify the hospital's compliance with specific designation criteria established by the state. The designation levels reflect the facility's neonatal care capabilities and commitment.

Since the bill's passage, [Texas Perinatal Services](#) (a division of Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation) has been actively involved in the legislative and regulatory processes, sharing its expertise and experience with the state as it developed both the neonatal and maternal care rules.

TETAF's Texas Perinatal Services division has been providing neonatal intensive care unit surveys to Texas hospitals since 2016. In 2016, the state also named Texas Perinatal Services an approved maternal care survey agency. Surveyed hospitals receive a detailed written report outlining the criteria met and not met. In addition, Texas Perinatal Services' expert survey teams consult with hospitals to answer questions and offer recommendations to assist them in meeting any potential deficiencies. Since its inception, nearly nine out of 10 neonatal facilities have relied on Texas Perinatal Services surveys.

"Improving health outcomes for newborns and mothers is what this designation program is all about," said Brenda Putz, Vice President of Operations. "Sadly, Texas has one of the highest maternal death rates in the nation, and that is a statistic no Texan can be proud of. Through these state-required surveys, hospitals are raising the bar for maternal child standards of care.

“Our mission is helping hospitals achieve excellence in the delivery of perinatal care. Texas hospitals face unique challenges in delivering care, from the sheer vastness of our geography to the significant variations in demographics and socioeconomics across regions,” adds Putz. “Those are challenges we understand, because our surveyors are maternal care physicians and nurses themselves, actively practicing in Texas. We are proud to work with hospitals as they seek to deliver the highest quality healthcare for mothers and babies.”

#### **About Texas Perinatal Services**

Texas Perinatal Services is a division of the non-profit Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation (TETAF). TETAF traces its roots back more than a decade to 2006, when it was founded as a cost-effective resource for providing state-required verification services for Texas’ trauma centers. With strong support from the 22 Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Councils, the organization built a reputation for its deep expertise in the Texas hospital market. Soon, TETAF’s work expanded to include stroke verification surveys and perinatal surveys. In 2015, TETAF established its Texas Perinatal Services division which specializes in neonatal and maternal care verification surveys and support for hospitals across Texas. For more information, visit [www.TexasPerinatalServices.org](http://www.TexasPerinatalServices.org).