



Texas Perinatal Services NEWSLETTER

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

OCTOBER 2020

Survey Update

TETAF and Texas Perinatal Services believe on-site surveys are optimal to ensure compliance with the standards of care set forth in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas Perinatal Services has implemented safety precautions to protect surveyors and individual teams. Texas Perinatal Services always works with each of our hospital partner's individual needs and can customize our on-site survey processes that adapt to the unique circumstances for that hospital during this time.

TETAF's and our surveyors' top priority is ensuring healthcare quality in our hospitals.

Perinatal Advisory Council Update

During the September 15 virtual meeting of the Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC), the Council discussed maternal and neonatal designations.

- 229 neonatal facilities have been designated in the first cycle. Of these:
 - 21 are Level IV,
 - 61 are Level III,
 - 67 are Level II, and
 - 80 are Level I.

For maternal:

- 14 facilities have been awarded designation.
 - 9 are Level IV,
 - 2 are Level III,
 - 3 are Level II, and
 - none are designated as a Level I.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), 174 hospitals still need to submit applications for maternal designations within the next year to be designated by August 31, 2021.

Due to COVID-19, some one-time extensions for 90 days have been granted for neonatal verification surveys. DSHS has been working on the development of guidelines for virtual surveys, should a virtual survey be necessary, that will ensure a quality survey process.

You can view the video of the [PAC meeting here](#). The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **November 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Seeks Input on Maternal and Newborn Care

As required by Senate Bill (SB) 750 from the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) seeks input on the following:

- The feasibility and cost-effectiveness of contracting with Medicaid MCOs to provide HTW program services in one or more service delivery areas in Texas.
- The impact managed care may have on women enrolled with HTW.
- Strategies to ensure continuity of care for women who transition from Medicaid and enroll with HTW.

The request for information (RFI) will be **available for public feedback through October 28, 2020.**

[Access the RFI to Share Input](#)

HHSC Launches Enhanced Postpartum Care Services

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) launched an enhanced postpartum care services package for eligible women enrolled in Healthy Texas Women, called HTW Plus. Approximately 90,000 Healthy Texas Women clients will automatically receive this new postpartum care coverage for up to 12 months.

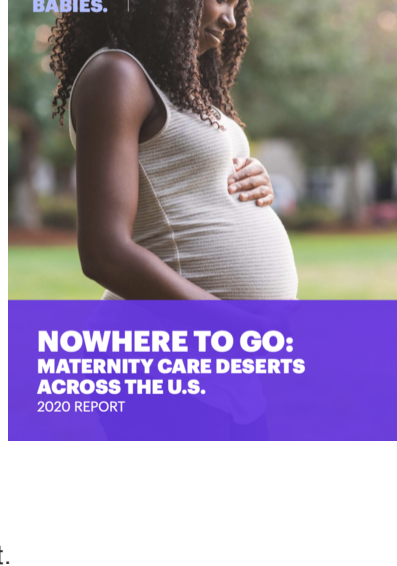
[Learn More about the Healthy Texas Women program](#)

Maternity Care Deserts - How Texas Fares

The March of Dimes released its Maternity Care Report for 2020. In the maternity care desert report, Texas does not fare well.

According to the report, Texas has a significant number of maternity care deserts, low access to maternity care, numerous areas with no or only one hospital or birth center, plus a widespread area with no obstetric provider. The report also includes data on maternal care access during COVID-19.

To view the report, click on the report cover to the right.



Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

The Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act, which expands initiatives to address maternal health in rural areas and promote innovation in the field, passed the U.S. House in September and has been received in the U.S. Senate. The bill requires the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish rural obstetric networks for improving outcomes in birth and maternal morbidity through collaboration, training, and program evaluation.

[Follow the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2020](#)

Also in September, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed the U.S. House and has been received in the U.S. Senate. This Act was created to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

[Follow the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act](#)



Meet Our New Texas Perinatal Services Survey Coordinators

Texas Perinatal Services is pleased to announce that Kerri Reeves joins our team as a survey coordinator/executive assistant. Kerri has experience as an executive assistant and as an administrative clerk in the Labor and Delivery Unit at St. David's Healthcare in Austin.

Additionally, Texas Perinatal Services would like to also welcome Ramon Napoles who joins the team as a survey coordinator. Ramon has experience as a medical claims analyst, a scheduling coordinator at St. David's Healthcare in Austin, and as an operations lead for United Airlines coordinating logistics.

Join us in welcoming Kerri and Ramon to the Texas Perinatal Services team!



Farewell to Kathy Clayton

Many of you have worked with TETAF/Texas Perinatal Services' survey coordinator Kathy Clayton through the years. After becoming a contractor for TETAF in 2014 and joining us full-time in 2016, Kathy is beginning a new chapter in her life and will be leaving TETAF soon.

Her work extended beyond scheduling surveys and included surveyor training, education, and anything else that was needed at TETAF.

Kathy, thank you for your hard work and dedication to our mission that you have shown during the past six years!

In the News

Texas Perinatal Services is pleased to share when our hospital partners are in the news.

St. David's Women's Center of Texas was recently [in the news](#) for earning a Level IV Maternal Designation.



October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

In 1988, US President Ronald Reagan declared October as a month to recognize the unique grief of bereaved parents. Specifically, October 15 is [World Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day](#).

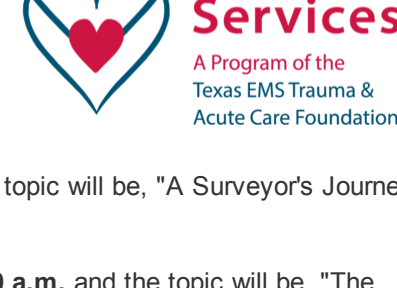
October is SIDS Awareness Month

October is also the designated month to raise awareness about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Get access to a #SafeSleepSnap toolkit and learn about Facebook Live events in October on the [Safe to Sleep website](#).

November is Prematurity Awareness Month

Next month is Prematurity Awareness Month and a time to spotlight the rising premature birth rates across the country. About a half of a million babies are born premature or with birth defects in the U.S. each year. Find resources at the [March of Dimes](#).

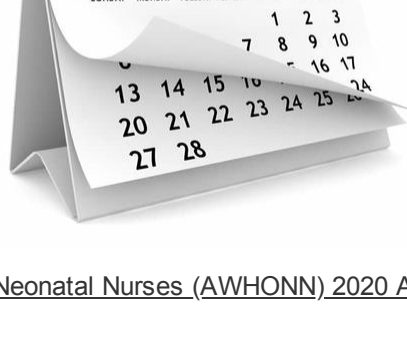
Next Texas Perinatal Services Monthly Forum - October 28



TETAF's Texas Perinatal Services (TPS) hosts its next Perinatal Forum on **October 28 at 1:00 p.m.** The topic will be, "A Surveyor's Journey to a Successful NICU Survey - Pearls and Pitfalls."

The November forum will be on **November 11 at 11:00 a.m.** and the topic will be, "The Respiratory Therapist is an Essential Team Member." The December forum will be on **December 11 at 11:00 a.m.** and the topic will be, "NICU Helping Hands: *Family Support for Fragile Beginnings*."

If you have not previously joined one of the educational online forums that are exclusive to TETAF/TPS hospitals, contact [Carla Rider](#) to register.



Mark Your Calendar

October 21-23

[National Association of Neonatal Nurses Annual Conference \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

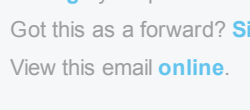
November 1-4

[Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses \(AWHONN\) 2020 Annual Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada](#)

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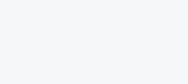
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