



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

Title: Perinatal (Obstetric/Neonatal) Patient Destination
Section: Transportation
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 17, 2025

PERINATAL (OBSTETRIC/NEONATAL) PATIENT DESTINATION

I. PURPOSE

1. Define a Perinatal Center as a hospital that provides high-quality maternal-fetal and neonatal care services.
2. Identify pregnant patients over 20 weeks through the immediate postpartum period (28 days after childbirth) and transport to the closest Level 2 or Level 3 Perinatal Center.
3. Evaluate pregnant patients for high-risk criteria and transport to a Level 3 Perinatal Center.

II. PERINATAL CENTERS

- A. Level 3 Perinatal Center: Hospitals designated by IDPH that provide care for pregnant patients and newborns of high risk that require complex care and operate a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
- B. Level 2 Perinatal Center: Hospitals designated by IDPH that provide care to pregnant patients and newborns of moderate risk (32 weeks or more) and operate immediate care nurseries.
- C. Level 0: Hospitals designated by IDPH with no obstetric services available.

III. PERINATAL (OBSTETRIC/NEONATAL) PATIENT DESTINATION CRITERIA:

A. Level 3 Perinatal Center Criteria

1. Patients between 20-32 weeks gestation with any complaint.
2. Pregnant patients that are "high risk" category based on either of the following:
 - a. Patients have been told they are high risk in the current pregnancy
 - b. EMS judgement that the patient is high risk based on lack of prenatal care, abnormal vitals, or pregnancy complication.
3. Any prehospital delivery.

B. Level 2 Perinatal Center Criteria

1. None of the Level 3 criteria are met.
2. Patients are 32 weeks or more gestation with any complaint.

C. All other pregnant or postpartum patients

1. Less than 20 weeks estimated gestational age may be transported to the closest emergency department.



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2. Patients within immediate postpartum period (28 days after childbirth) should be transported to a Perinatal Center.

IV. HOSPITAL COMMUNICATION

- A. All Perinatal patients including pregnant or post-partum woman and newborn patients with a prehospital delivery are considered Systems of Care patients and require contact with Online Medical Control.
- B. When possible, transport to the patient's medical home to facilitate timely and efficient care after discussion with Online Medical Control.



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Attachment 1

PERINATAL CENTERS

LEVEL 3 PERINATAL CENTERS

Advocate Christ Medical Center
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital, Chicago
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook
County

Loyola University Medical Center
Mount Sinai Hospital
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Rush University Medical Center
UChicago Medicine
UI Health

LEVEL 2 PERINATAL CENTERS

Advocate Trinity Hospital
Prime Healthcare Resurrection Medical
Center
Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth
Hospital
Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital

Humboldt Park Health
Loyola MacNeal Hospital
OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center
Roseland Community Hospital
Saint Anthony Hospital

NO OBSTETRIC SERVICES AVAILABLE

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of
Chicago
Prime Healthcare Saint Francis Hospital
Community First Medical Center
Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Affairs Hospital
Holy Cross Hospital
Insight Hospital & Medical Center
Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center

Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical
Center
Loretto Hospital
Provident Hospital of Cook County
South Shore Hospital
St. Bernard Hospital
Thorek Memorial Hospital
West Suburban Medical Center

Updated: 8/25