About the 2023 California Maternity Honor Roll

Background

Every year approximately 420,000 babies are born in California,[1] and childbirth is the number one reason for hospitalization in the U.S. and California.[2] For mothers, overuse of cesarean sections (c-sections)[3] can result in higher rates of complications like hemorrhage, transfusions, infection, and blood clots. The surgery also brings risks for babies, including higher rates of infection, respiratory complications, neonatal intensive care unit stays, and lower breastfeeding rates.

In 2015, the California Health and Human Services Agency began recognizing hospitals that meet the statewide target of c-sections for low-risk births through its Maternity Honor Roll. Starting this year, CHC changed the NTSV C-section rate threshold for honor roll hospitals from 23.9% to 23.6% to align with the Healthy People 2030 goals.

This year's award reflects calendar year 2022 hospital discharge and birth certificate data from 211 California hospitals that offer maternity services and participate in the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative's Maternal Data Center (CMQCC's MDC).

o   The 2023 Maternity Honor Roll recognizes 107 hospitals that met or surpassed the statewide target aimed at reducing births via c-section in first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies.

o   The 107 hospitals represent 1/2 of all 211 hospitals that offer maternity services and participate in CMQCC's MDC.

o   Reducing c-section rates starts with the culture of the hospital, involving changes to physician practice patterns, education of nurses, support staff and families, and implementation of new policies within the facility. Collaboration and communication among members of the clinical team are essential.

o   Of the 107 hospitals recognized in 2023, 24 have achieved Honor Roll status eight years running.

o   An estimated 36,852 low-risk C-sections were avoided during this eight-year period, from 2016 to 2023. If all hospitals met the 23.6 percent statewide target, 2,734 C-sections would have been avoided in 2023 alone.

o   Of note, there continues to be substantial variation among individual hospital rates of low-risk, first-birth c-sections. In California, these rates range from 12% to over 35% indicating potential for further improvement.

o   CMQCC, released a toolkit in 2016 to assist hospitals and clinicians in promoting vaginal birth and reducing unnecessary c-sections. In addition, CMQCC has worked with California hospitals and their clinical teams to implement this toolkit through an 18-month Supporting Vaginal Birth quality improvement collaborative.

o   Aligning payment and purchaser requirements to support clinical teams in providing only medically necessary c-section is also important. Smart Care California developed a menu of payment and contracting options that gives payers specific strategies to align payment with desired outcomes.

o   Consumer education is also critical to the above efforts. As part of efforts to advance improvements in health care, CMQCC, Consumer Reports and the California Health Care Foundation partnered to launch My Birth Matters, a statewide campaign designed to educate expectant mothers about c-section deliveries and encourage conversations between them, their doctor, and their care team. The campaign offers free educational materials in multiple languages, including print materials and four, short, animated videos that educate women about c-sections and encourage them to share their birth preferences.

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[1] Public Policy Institute of California

[2] *Reducing Unnecessary C-Sections in California.* California Health Care Foundation, Jul. 10, 2018. Accessed Nov. 2019.

[3] C-section rates for low-risk, first births is defined by the Joint Commission as nulliparous women with a term, singleton baby in a vertex position delivered by cesarean birth

2023 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Adventist Health and Rideout	Marysville
Adventist Health Clear Lake	Clearlake
Adventist Health Hanford	Hanford
Adventist Health Lodi Memorial	Lodi
Adventist Health Simi Valley	Simi Valley
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley	Ukiah
AHMC Anaheim Regional Medical Center	Anaheim
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center - Alta Bates Campus	Berkeley
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	Colton
Banner Lassen Medical Center	Susanville
Barstow Community Hospital	Barstow
Barton Memorial Hospital	South Lake Tahoe
California Pacific Medical Center - Van Ness Campus	San Francisco
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula	Monterey
Community Memorial Hospital	Ventura
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center	Martinez
Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
Desert Regional Medical Center	Palm Springs
Desert Valley Hospital	Victorville
Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center	Los Angeles
Dignity Health - St. Mary Medical Center	Long Beach
Dignity Health Bakersfield Memorial Hospital	Bakersfield
Dignity Health Mercy Hospital of Folsom	Folsom
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Redding	Redding
Dignity Health Mercy San Juan Medical Center	Carmichael
Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center	San Bernardino
Dignity Health St. Elizabeth Community Hospital	Red Bluff
Dignity Health St. John's Regional Medical Center	Oxnard
Dignity Health Woodland Memorial Hospital	Woodland
Doctors Medical Center of Modesto	Modesto
Dominican Hospital	Santa Cruz
Eden Medical Center	Castro Valley
Eisenhower Health Hospital	Rancho Mirage
El Camino Hospital Los Gatos	Los Gatos
Emanuel Medical Center	Turlock
Enloe Medical Center - Esplanade Campus	Chico
Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital	Hollister

2023 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Hemet Valley Medical Center	Hemet
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital	Valencia
Hi-Desert Medical Center	Joshua Tree
Highland Hospital	Oakland
Huntington Hospital	Pasadena
Kaiser Permanente Antioch Medical Center	Antioch
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center	Baldwin Park
Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center	Downey
Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center	Fresno
Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center	Oakland
Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center	Redwood City
Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center	San Jose
Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center	San Leandro
Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center	Sacramento
Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center	Vacaville
LA General Medical Center	Los Angeles
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital	Loma Linda
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta	Murrieta
Mad River Community Hospital	Arcata
Marin Health Medical Center	Greenbrae
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital	Los Angeles
Memorial Hospital Los Banos	Los Banos
Memorial Medical Center	Modesto
MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center	Fountain Valley
Natividad Medical Center	Salinas
Northern Inyo Hospital	Bishop
O'Connor Hospital	San Jose
Olive View - UCLA Medical Center	Sylmar
Palmdale Regional Medical Center	Palmdale
Palomar Medical Center Escondido	Escondido
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District	Brawley
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Pomona
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance	Torrance
Providence Mission Hospital - Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo
Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center	Napa
Providence Saint John's Health Center	Santa Monica
Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka	Eureka
Providence St. Jude Medical Center	Fullerton

2023 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Hospital Name	City
Providence St. Mary Medical Center - Apple Valley	Apple Valley
Rancho Springs Medical Center	Murrieta
Redlands Community Hospital	Redlands
Riverside University Health Systems	Moreno Valley
Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System	Salinas
San Antonio Regional Hospital	Upland
San Joaquin General Hospital	French Camp
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	San Jose
Santa Paula Hospital	Santa Paula
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital	Santa Rosa
Scripps Memorial Hospital - Encinitas	Encinitas
Scripps Mercy Hospital - Chula Vista	Chula Vista
Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego	San Diego
St. Francis Medical Center	Lynwood
St. Louise Regional Hospital	Gilroy
Sutter Coast Hospital	Crescent City
Sutter Davis Hospital	Davis
Sutter Delta Medical Center	Antioch
Sutter Lakeside Hospital	Lakeport
Sutter Medical Center - Sacramento	Sacramento
Sutter Roseville Medical Center	Roseville
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital	Santa Rosa
Sutter Tracy Community Hospital	Tracy
Tahoe Forest Hospital	Truckee
Tri-City Medical Center	Oceanside
Twin Cities Community Hospital	Templeton
UC Irvine Health	Orange
UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center	Santa Monica
UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital	San Francisco
Ventura County Medical Center	Ventura
Watsonville Community Hospital	Watsonville
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center	San Francisco