

### **Background**

Every year approximately 420,000 babies are born in California,<sup>1</sup> and childbirth is the number one reason for hospitalization in the U.S. and California.<sup>2</sup>

Starting this year, California Health and Human Services Agency and Cal Hospital Compare recognizes hospitals that meet or exceed performance standards for 5 maternal health metrics including: NTSV C-section, surgical site infection after a C-section, vaginal birth after a C-section (also known as a VBAC), episiotomy, and early elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks gestational age. The 2015 – 2023 Maternity Care Honor Rolls recognized hospitals that met performance standards for the NTSV C-section rate only.

- 94 out of 223 eligible hospitals met the 2024 honor roll criteria; which represents 42% of all eligible hospitals.
- 56 hospitals met the new maternity care composite measure by meeting or exceeding performance standards for all 5 maternal health metrics; which represents just 25% of all eligible hospitals (Table 1).
- An additional 38 hospitals met or surpassed the historic honor roll criteria by meeting or exceeding the statewide and Healthy People 2030 NTSV C-section target rate of 23.6% for low-risk, first time births (Table 2).
- 57 hospitals made the honor roll for the past 3 years.
- Hospitals must also participate in California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative's Maternal Data Center to be considered for the honor roll.
- For mothers, overuse of C-sections<sup>3</sup> can result in higher rates of complications like hemorrhage, transfusions, infection, blood clots, and problems with the placenta in future pregnancies. The surgery also brings risks for babies, including higher rates of infection, respiratory complications, neonatal intensive care unit stays, and lower breastfeeding rates.
- A surgical site infection within 30 days after a C-section is one of the most common complications following a C-section and has an incidence of 3%–15% and is associated with a maternal mortality rate of up to 3%.<sup>4</sup> C-sections are the most frequent hospital surgery in the United States.
- Once a woman has her first C-section, the successful rate of vaginal birth after C-section, or VBAC, is approximately 60-80%.<sup>5</sup>
- An episiotomy is a surgical cut in the vaginal opening to make more space for the birth of a baby. It was once a routine procedure; however, many recent studies show that this cut does not make the birth easier and may lead to more short- and long-term harm in women. Providers and hospitals generally aim to do fewer episiotomies.

## About the 2024 California Maternity Honor Roll

- Elective deliveries before 39 weeks gestational age can lead to preventable Neonatal Intensive Care admissions and increased long-term health risks for newborns – including respiratory complications, sepsis and hypoglycemia – with no known benefits to the mother or newborn
- California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative collects quality and outcomes data from all California hospitals and actively works with them to improve care for birthing people.

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<sup>1</sup> [Public Policy Institute of California](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Reducing Unnecessary C-Sections in California](#). California Health Care Foundation, Jul. 10, 2018. Accessed Nov. 2019.

<sup>3</sup> [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](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Post cesarean wound infection: prevalence, impact, prevention, and management challenges](#), Feb. 2017. Accessed Nov. 2024.

<sup>5</sup> [ACOG Releases Guidelines for Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Delivery](#). *Am Fam Physician*. 2004;70(7):1397-1401. Accessed Nov. 2024.

<b>Table 1. Hospitals meeting the new maternity care composite measure</b>	
<b>Hospital Name</b>	<b>City</b>
Adventist Health Clear Lake	Clearlake
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
Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
Desert Regional Medical Center	Palm Springs
Dignity Health Mercy Hospital of Folsom	Folsom
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Mount Shasta	Mount Shasta
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 Woodland Memorial Hospital	Woodland
Dominican Hospital	Santa Cruz
Eden Medical Center	Castro Valley
El Camino Hospital Los Gatos	Los Gatos
Emanuel Medical Center	Turlock
Enloe Medical Center - Esplanade Campus	Chico
Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital	Hollister
Hemet Global Medical Center	Hemet
Highland Hospital	Oakland
Jacobs Medical Center	La Jolla
Kaiser Foundation Hospital – San Marcos	San Marcos
Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center	Downey
Kaiser Permanente Modesto Medical Center	Modesto
Kaiser Permanente Moreno Valley Medical Center	Moreno Valley
Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center	Redwood City
Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center	San Jose
Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center	Sacramento
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
Memorial Hospital Los Banos	Los Banos
Olive View - UCLA Medical Center	Sylmar
Palomar Medical Center Escondido	Escondido
PIH Health Hospital - Whittier	Whittier
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance	Torrance
Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center	Napa
Providence St. Jude Medical Center	Fullerton
Rancho Springs Medical Center	Murrieta
San Ramon Regional Medical Center	San Ramon
Santa Paula Hospital	Santa Paula

<b>Table 1. Hospitals meeting the new maternity care composite measure</b>	
<b>Hospital Name</b>	<b>City</b>
Scripps Memorial Hospital - Encinitas	Encinitas
Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego	San Diego
St. Louise Regional Hospital	Gilroy
St. Rose Hospital	Hayward
Sutter Coast Hospital	Crescent City
Sutter Medical Center - Sacramento	Sacramento
Tahoe Forest Hospital	Truckee
UC San Diego Health's Hillcrest medical campus	San Diego
UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center	Santa Monica
Ventura County Medical Center	Ventura
Watsonville Community Hospital	Watsonville
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center	San Francisco

<b>Table 2. Hospitals meeting the NTSV C-section criteria only</b>	
<b>Hospital Name</b>	<b>City</b>
Adventist Health Bakersfield	Bakersfield
Adventist Health Hanford	Hanford
Adventist Health Reedley	Reedley
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley	Ukiah
California Pacific Medical Center - Van Ness Campus	San Francisco
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula	Monterey
Community Memorial Hospital Ventura location	Ventura
Community Regional Medical Center	Fresno
Desert Valley Hospital	Victorville
Dignity Health Bakersfield Memorial Hospital	Bakersfield
Dignity Health Mercy Hospital Southwest - Bakersfield	Bakersfield
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Merced	Merced
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Redding	Redding
Garfield Medical Center	Monterey Park
Good Samaritan Hospital - San Jose	San Jose
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital	Valencia
JFK Memorial Hospital	Indio
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center	Baldwin Park
Kaiser Permanente Fresno Medical Center	Fresno
Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center	San Leandro
Lompoc Valley Medical Center	Lompoc
MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center	Fountain Valley
MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center	Laguna Hills
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District	Brawley
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Pomona
Providence Mission Hospital - Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo
Providence Saint John's Health Center	Santa Monica
Riverside Community Hospital	Riverside

## 2024 Maternity Honor Roll Hospitals

Table 2. Hospitals meeting the NTSV C-section criteria only	
Hospital Name	City
Salinas Valley Health	Salinas
San Antonio Regional Hospital	Upland
San Joaquin General Hospital	French Camp
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	San Jose
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital	Santa Rosa
Sutter Davis Hospital	Davis
Sutter Delta Medical Center	Antioch
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital	Santa Rosa
Twin Cities Community Hospital	Templeton
UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital	San Francisco