

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

Starting in 2024, California Health and Human Services Agency and Cal Hospital Compare recognized hospitals that meet or exceed performance standards for 5 maternal health metrics, including: NTSV C-section, surgical site infection after C-section, Vaginal Birth After 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 only recognized hospitals that met performance standards for the NTSV C-section rate. Hospitals must participate in the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative's Maternal Data Center (CMQCC MDC) to be considered for the honor roll.

Results

- 82 out of 198 hospitals submitting data to CMQCC's MDC are recognized on the 2025 Maternity Care Honor Roll; representing 41% of hospitals considered for the honor roll.
- Over 25% (n=54) of hospitals that submit data to CMQCC's MDC achieved superior performance by meeting the maternity care composite criteria (i.e. meeting or exceeding performance standards for all 5 maternal health metrics) (Table 1).
- An additional 28 hospitals are recognized as having basic performance 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).
- 21 hospitals achieved Superior performance for the first time, while 33 hospitals maintained superior performance in 2024 and 2025
- 38 hospitals have made the honor roll since 2022

Additional Information

- CMQCC collects quality and outcomes data from all California hospitals and actively works with them to improve care for birthing people.
- For mothers, overuse of C-sections³ 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%.⁴ 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%.⁵
- 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.
- 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.

¹ [Public Policy Institute of California](#)

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

³ [Reducing Unnecessary C-Sections in California](#). California Health Care Foundation, Jul. 10, 2018. Accessed Nov. 2019.

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

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

Table 1. Hospitals achieving <i>Superior</i> Performance: meeting composite criteria (n=54)	
Hospital Name	City
Adventist Health Clear Lake	Clearlake
Adventist Health Delano	Delano
Adventist Health Rideout Hospital	Marysville
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	Colton
Banner Lassen Medical Center	Susanville
Barton Memorial Hospital	South Lake Tahoe
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula	Monterey
Community Memorial Hospital Ventura location	Ventura
Community Regional Medical Center	Fresno
Dignity Health French Hospital Medical Center	San Luis Obispo
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Mount Shasta	Mount Shasta
Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center Redding	Redding
Dignity Health St. Bernardine Medical Center	San Bernardino
Doctors Medical Center of Modesto	Modesto
Eden Medical Center	Castro Valley
El Camino Hospital Los Gatos	Los Gatos
Enloe Medical Center - Esplanade Campus	Chico
Good Samaritan Hospital - San Jose	San Jose
Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital	Hollister
Hi-Desert Medical Center	Joshua Tree
Highland Hospital	Oakland
Hoag Hospital Irvine	Irvine
Jacobs Medical Center	La Jolla
Kaiser Permanente Antioch Medical Center	Antioch
Kaiser Permanente Modesto Medical Center	Modesto
Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center	Oakland
Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center	Redwood City
Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center	San Francisco
Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center	San Jose
Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center	Vacaville
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital	Loma Linda
Loma Linda University Medical Center - Murrieta	Murrieta
Marin Health Medical Center	Greenbrae
Olive View - UCLA Medical Center	Sylmar
Palomar Medical Center Escondido	Escondido
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Pomona
Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance	Torrance
Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center	Napa
Providence St. Joseph Hospital Eureka	Eureka
Providence St. Jude Medical Center	Fullerton
Providence St. Mary Medical Center - Apple Valley	Apple Valley
Rancho Springs Medical Center	Murrieta
San Joaquin General Hospital	French Camp
Scripps Memorial Hospital - Encinitas	Encinitas

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Hospital Name	City
Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego	San Diego
St. Louise Regional Hospital	Gilroy
Sutter Lakeside Hospital	Lakeport
Sutter Tracy Community Hospital	Tracy
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

Table 2. Hospitals achieving <i>Basic</i> Performance: NTSV C-section criteria only (n=28)	
Hospital Name	City
Adventist Health Bakersfield	Bakersfield
Adventist Health Hanford	Hanford
Adventist Health Sierra Vista	San Luis Obispo
Adventist Health Twin Cities	Templeton
Adventist Health Ukiah Valley	Ukiah
Barstow Community Hospital	Barstow
Corona Regional Medical Center	Corona
Dignity Health - St. Mary Medical Center	Long Beach
Dignity Health Bakersfield Memorial Hospital	Bakersfield
Eisenhower Health Hospital	Rancho Mirage
Garfield Medical Center	Monterey Park
Harbor - UCLA Medical Center	Torrance
JFK Memorial Hospital	Indio
John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus	Walnut Creek
Kaiser Permanente Downey Medical Center	Downey
Kaiser Permanente San Leandro Medical Center	San Leandro
Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center	Sacramento
Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Medical Center	Walnut Creek
Northern Inyo Hospital	Bishop
O'Connor Hospital	San Jose
PIH Health Hospital - Whittier	Whittier
Redlands Community Hospital	Redlands
San Ramon Regional Medical Center	San Ramon
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center	San Jose
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital	Santa Rosa
Sutter Amador Hospital	Jackson
Sutter Davis Hospital	Davis
UC Irvine Health	Orange