

Prepublication Requirements



Obstetrical Services Requirements

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

APPLICABLE TO THE HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective Immediately

(These standard/EPs will be moved to new numbers, displayed below in parentheses, beginning January 1, 2026)

Human Resources (HR) Chapter

HR.01.05.03 (HR.11.03.01)

The hospital provides orientation, education, and training to their staff.

Element(s) of Performance for HR.01.05.03

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| EP 33 (EP 2) | Applicable staff, as identified by the hospital, are trained annually on the protocols and provisions implemented for emergency services readiness.

Note 1: The hospital must document in staff personnel records that the annual training was successfully completed.

Note 2: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: Protocols and provisions implemented for emergency services readiness are pursuant to 42 CFR 482.55(c). For 482.55(c), refer to https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/part-482/section-482.55#p-482.55(c) .

© Documentation is required
CoPs: §482.55(c)(3), §482.55(c)(3)(ii) |
| EP 34 (EP 3) | For hospitals that use Joint Commission Accreditation for deemed status purposes: The governing body identifies and documents which staff must complete the annual emergency services readiness protocols and provisions training.

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CoPs: §482.55(c)(3)(i) |
| EP 35 (EP 4) | The hospital is able to demonstrate staff knowledge on the topics implemented for emergency services |

readiness protocols and provisions.

CoPs: §482.55(c)(3)(iii)

- EP 36 (EP 5) The hospital uses findings from its quality assessment and performance improvement (QAPI) program to inform staff training needs and any additions, revisions, or updates to training topics on an ongoing basis.
- Note: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: Quality assessment and performance improvement findings are used as required at 42 CFR 482.21. For 482.21, refer to <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/section-482.21>.
- CoPs: §482.55(c)(3)(iv)

Leadership (LD) Chapter

LD.04.03.01 (LD.13.03.01)

Element(s) of Performance for LD.04.03.01

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| EP 36 (EP 20) | <p>In accordance with the complexity and scope of services offered, the hospital has adequate provisions and protocols to meet the emergency needs of patients.</p> <p>Ⓢ Documentation is required</p> <p>CoPs: §482.55(c)</p> |
| EP 37 (EP 21) | <p>In accordance with the complexity and scope of services offered, the hospital protocols are consistent with nationally recognized and evidence-based guidelines for the care of patients with emergency conditions, including but not limited to patients with obstetrical emergencies, complications, and immediate postdelivery care.</p> <p>Ⓢ Documentation is required</p> <p>CoPs: §482.55(c)(1)</p> |
| EP 38 (EP 22) | <p>In accordance with the complexity and scope of services offered, the hospital has provisions that include equipment, supplies, and medication used in treating emergency cases. Such provisions are kept at the hospital and readily available for treating emergency cases to meet the needs of patients. The available provisions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs, blood and blood products, and biologicals commonly used in lifesaving procedures • Equipment and supplies commonly used in life-saving procedures • A call-in system for each patient in each emergency services treatment area <p>CoPs: §482.55(c)(2), §482.55(c)(2)(i), §482.55(c)(2)(ii), §482.55(c)(2)(iii)</p> |

Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC) Chapter

PC.04.01.03 (PC.14.01.01)

The hospital discharges or transfers the patient based on the patient's assessed needs and the organization's ability to meet those needs.

Element(s) of Performance for PC.14.01.01

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| EP 11 (EP 15) | <p>The hospital has written policies and procedures for transferring patients under its care (inclusive of inpatient services) to the appropriate level of care (including to another hospital) as needed to meet the needs of the patient. The hospital also provides annual training to relevant staff regarding the hospital policies and procedures for transferring patients under its care.</p> <p>© Documentation is required</p> <p>CoPs: §482.43(c)</p> |
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Effective January 1, 2026

Leadership (LD) Chapter

LD.13.01.07

The hospital effectively manages its programs, services, sites, or departments.

Element(s) of Performance for LD.13.01.07

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| EP 4 | <p>If obstetrical services are provided, hospital labor and delivery rooms/suites (including labor rooms; delivery rooms, including rooms for operative delivery; and post-partum/recovery rooms whether combined or separate) are supervised by an experienced registered nurse, certified nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.</p> <p>CoPs: §482.59(a)(1)</p> |
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LD.13.03.01

The hospital provides services that meet patient needs.

Element(s) of Performance for LD.13.03.01

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| EP 1 | <p>The hospital provides services directly or through referral, consultation, contractual arrangements, or other agreements that meet the needs of the population(s) served, are organized appropriate to the scope and complexity of services offered and are in accordance with accepted standards of practice. Services may include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient • Emergency • Medical Records • Diagnostic and therapeutic radiology • Nuclear medicine • Surgical • Anesthesia • Laboratory • Dietetic • Obstetrical <p>Note: If obstetrical services are provided, they are in accordance with nationally recognized acceptable standards of practice for the health care (including physical and behavioral health) of pregnant, birthing, and postpartum patients. If outpatient obstetrical services are offered, the services are consistent in quality with inpatient care in accordance with the complexity of services offered. As</p> |
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applicable, the services must be integrated with other departments of the hospital.

CoPs: §482.59, §482.59(a)

- EP 23 If obstetrical services are provided, obstetrical services are consistent with the needs and resources of the hospital. Policies governing obstetrical care are designed to assure the achievement and maintenance of high standards of medical practice and patient care and safety.

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CoPs: §482.59(b)

- EP 24 If obstetrical services are provided, the hospital has adequate provisions and protocols, consistent with nationally recognized and evidence-based guidelines, for obstetrical emergencies, complications, immediate post-delivery care, and other patient health and safety events as identified as part of the quality assessment and performance improvement (QAPI) program. Provisions include equipment, supplies, and medication used in treating emergency cases. Such provisions are kept in the hospital and are readily available for treating emergency cases.

Note 1: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: See 42 CFR 482.21 for QAPI program requirements. For 482.21, refer to <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/section-482.21>.

Note 2: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: The equipment addressed at this EP is in addition to the equipment required at 42 CFR 482.59(b)(1). For 482.59(b)(1), refer to [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/part-482/section-482.59#p-482.59\(b\)\(1\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/part-482/section-482.59#p-482.59(b)(1)).

CoPs: §482.59(b)(2)

Medical Staff (MS) Chapter

MS.17.02.01

The decision to grant or deny a privilege(s) and/or to renew an existing privilege(s) is an objective, evidence-based process.

Element(s) of Performance for MS.17.02.01

- EP 10 If obstetrical services are provided, obstetrical privileges are delineated for all practitioners providing obstetrical care in accordance with the competencies of each practitioner. Note: For hospitals that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes: Obstetrical privileges are delineated in accordance with 42 CFR 482.22(c). For 482.22(c), refer to [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/part-482/subpart-C#p-482.22\(c\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/part-482/subpart-C#p-482.22(c)).

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CoPs: §482.59(a)(2)

Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC) Chapter

PC.12.01.05

Resuscitative services are available throughout the hospital.

Element(s) of Performance for PC.12.01.05

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| EP 2 | If obstetrical services are provided, the following equipment is kept at the hospital and is readily available for treating obstetrical cases to meet the needs of patients in accordance with the scope, volume, and complexity of services offered: call-in-system, cardiac monitor, and fetal doppler or monitor.
CoPs: §482.59(b)(1) |
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