



## Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

October 2018 Newsletter

## Take a Coffee Break with Us!



Over the past several months, we have met with dozens of hospitals and clinical teams to share the details on Texas' new maternal care verification survey rules and processes. It is clear that there are lots of questions! While we continue to hit the road with local presentations, we are also excited to share answers in our new [Coffee Break Webinar Series](#).

If you haven't been able to attend one of our local workshops, our Coffee Break Webinars are an ideal way to get up to speed from the convenience of your own desk. These short webinars are less than 15 minutes each, and are available on demand, at your convenience. You'll hear from Texas Perinatal Services' maternal care clinical and survey experts, including Perinatal Program Manager Carla Rider and Vice President of Operations Brenda Putz.

You can access the first three Coffee Break Webinars [online](#) now.

# TPS Launches Exclusive Content for Contracted Hospitals

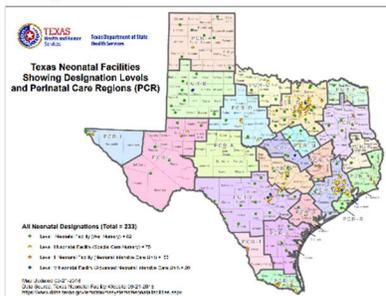
In addition to our Coffee Break Webinars, we are pleased to announce the launch of a virtual resource library for Texas Perinatal Services contracted hospitals.

“Hospitals that partner with us for their maternal care survey get exclusive access to a virtual library of resources developed just for them by our clinical and survey experts,” said Carla Rider, Perinatal Program Manager. “This series of rapid fire presentations, accessible 24/7 from our website, will provide our hospital clients with critical training to support program development and help them succeed in achieving designation.”

Contracted hospitals can [login here](#).

## Congratulations to the NICU Designated Facilities!

The Department of State Health Services recently published the names of the [233 hospitals](#) that have achieved NICU designation.



By level, the designations include:

- Level I – 81 facilities
- Level II – 75 facilities
- Level III – 57 facilities
- Level IV – 20 facilities

“It has been an honor to be a part of the NICU survey process with so many of these hospitals,” said Brenda Putz, Vice President of Operations. “Since we began offering NICU verification surveys in 2016, we’ve had the opportunity to work with more than 80 percent of the NICU facilities statewide. It is very gratifying to see the dedication and commitment these providers and facilities have for providing the very best level of care possible for Texas babies and mothers.”

View the map of all designated NICU facilities [here](#).

# Industry Profile: What is the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council?



Since its creation, the Texas Perinatal Advisory Council, known as "the PAC", has played an important role in guiding the state's adoption of neonatal and maternal care designation levels. Here's what you need to know:

**How did it come about?** The Texas Legislature established the Perinatal Advisory Council in 2013 to continue the work of its predecessor, the NICU Council, which it had formed two years earlier. The council's initial charge was to develop and recommend criteria for designating levels of neonatal and maternal care. In addition, council members were tasked with specifying minimum requirements for hospitals to qualify for designation at each level, developing processes for assigning levels of care to a hospital, recommending neonatal and maternal care regions in the state and monitoring trends and making recommendations for improved outcomes.

**Who is on the council?** In 2015, the council's original 17 appointed members were joined by two new rural representatives. The state laid out specific membership criteria: the council would comprise healthcare providers who serve pregnant women and newborns. They include pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, maternal fetal medicine specialists, neonatologists, children's hospital representatives and rural providers. For a full list of members, [visit the DSHS website](#).

**How do I get involved?** The council meets every two to three months in Austin, and visitors are welcome to attend. Texas Perinatal Services staff members participate in all meetings. The next meeting is November 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Health and Human Services Commission Brown-Heatly Building Public Hearing Room, 4900 North Lamar Blvd. in Austin. [Meetings are also webcast and available online.](#)

## **New SIDS Educational Resource Available**

The National Institute for Nursing Research is now offering an online continuing education course for nurses as part of its Safe to Sleep® campaign. Through it, nurses can learn the latest research and risk-reduction strategies for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and other sleep-related causes of infant death. You can access the course from the [Texas Perinatal Services Education](#) page.

