

**Table 1. Maternal Levels of Care: Key Elements of ACOG/SMFM Recommendations**

Level of Care	Definition	Examples of Capabilities and Providers	Examples of Patients
Birth Center	Peripartum care of low-risk women with uncomplicated singleton term pregnancies who are expected to have an uncomplicated birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readiness at all times to meet unexpected needs and facilitate transport to acute care setting when necessary</li> <li>• Established agreement with a receiving hospital for timely transport</li> <li>• Every birth attended by at least two professionals</li> <li>• Primary maternal care providers (including certified nurse midwives, etc.)</li> </ul>	Term, singleton, vertex presentation
I	BASIC CARE: Care of uncomplicated pregnancies with the ability to detect, stabilize, and initiate management of unanticipated maternal-fetal or neonatal problems until transport	Birth center capabilities, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to begin emergency cesarean delivery</li> <li>• Access to obstetric ultrasound, laboratory testing, and blood bank at all times</li> <li>• Nursing leadership has expertise in perinatal nursing care</li> <li>• Obstetric provider with privileges to perform emergency cesarean available to attend all deliveries</li> <li>• Anesthesia services available for labor and surgery</li> </ul>	Any Birth Center patient plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term twin gestation</li> <li>• Trial of labor after cesarean</li> <li>• Uncomplicated cesarean</li> <li>• Preeclampsia without severe features at term</li> </ul>
II	SPECIALTY CARE: Level I facility plus care of appropriate high-risk conditions, both directly admitted and transferred from another facility	Level I capabilities, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CT scan and MRI with interpretation available</li> <li>• Ob-gyn available at all times, director of OB services is board-certified Ob-gyn</li> <li>• Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) available for consultation, as needed</li> <li>• Anesthesia services available at all times for labor and surgery</li> <li>• Board-certified anesthesiologist with special training or experience in obstetric anesthesia available for consultation</li> <li>• Medical and surgical consultants available to stabilize obstetric patients</li> </ul>	Any Level I patient, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe preeclampsia</li> <li>• Placenta previa with no prior uterine surgery</li> </ul>
III	SUBSPECIALTY CARE: Level II facility plus care of more complex maternal medical conditions, obstetric complications, and fetal conditions	Level II capabilities, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced imaging available at all times</li> <li>• ICUs accept pregnant women and have critical care providers onsite at all times</li> <li>• Ob-gyn available onsite at all times, director of OB is board-certified Ob-gyn</li> <li>• MFM with inpatient privileges available at all times</li> <li>• Board-certified anesthesiologist with special training or experience in obstetric anesthesia in charge of obstetric anesthesiology services</li> <li>• Full complement of subspecialists available for inpatient consultations</li> </ul>	Any Level II patient, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placenta previa with prior uterine surgery</li> <li>• Suspected placenta percreta</li> <li>• Adult respiratory syndrome</li> <li>• Expectant management of early severe preeclampsia &lt;34 wks gestation</li> </ul>
IV	REGIONAL CENTERS: Level III facility plus on-site medical and surgical care of the most complex maternal conditions and critically ill pregnant women and fetuses throughout antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum care.	Level III capabilities, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perinatal system leadership</li> <li>• On-site ICU care for obstetric patients</li> <li>• MFM care team led by board-certified MFM with expertise in critical care obstetrics, MFM available at all times for onsite consultation and management.</li> <li>• Director of obstetric service is board-certified MFM or board-certified ob-gyn with expertise in critical care obstetrics</li> <li>• Subspecialty consultation available onsite at all times to collaborate with MFM</li> </ul>	Any Level III patient, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe maternal cardiac conditions</li> <li>• Severe pulmonary hypertension or liver failure</li> <li>• Pregnant women requiring neurosurgery or cardiac surgery</li> <li>• Preg. women in unstable condition and in need of an organ transplant</li> </ul>