



MEMORANDUM

To: EMS agencies & clinicians in Maine EMS Region 1
Interested stakeholders

From: Marc Minkler, EMS for Children Program Manager, Maine EMS
Dr. Michael Bohanske, Region 1 Medical Director

Date: September 27, 2023

Subject: York Hospital Obstetrics Unit Closure

Effective September 25, 2023, York Hospital has closed their maternity care unit. This closure happened very suddenly and not with the normal 120-day notification period to Maine DHHS. As such, we are still working on dynamic changes and bring you this memo for situational awareness.

For patients that were receiving prenatal and post-partum care, York Hospital is assisting current patients with transferring their care to Wentworth Douglass Hospital in New Hampshire, but some patients may elect to choose another hospital in Maine or NH.

EMS should NOT transport pregnant patients greater than 20 weeks gestation, or with uterus palpable at the level of the umbilicus, if unknown gestational age, to York Hospital unless they are critically ill or injured or the patient insists. Patients seen in the Emergency Department with OB concerns and require admission will need to be transferred to another hospital for continued care.

EMS agencies should always consider utilizing On Line Medical Consultation (OLMC) in cases with any clinical questions or concerns. Current Maine EMS protocols are also an excellent resource for patient care (<https://www.maine.gov/ems/protocols-resources/pre-hospital-care-protocols>). Of note is on Pink 5, #10, which states *“the patient is best cared for at a hospital with Obstetric (OB) services. If the patient condition permits, transport to the nearest hospital with OB capabilities if total transport time is less than 45 minutes, otherwise go to the closest ED. For questions, contact OLMC.”*

Area hospitals with OB services include Southern Maine Health Care (Biddeford Campus), Maine Medical Center, and in New Hampshire, Wentworth Douglass Hospital and Portsmouth Regional Hospital. Please note that Southern Maine Health Care (Sanford Campus) and Bridgton Hospital do not have OB capacity.

Statewide, the Maine CDC has updated the Maine Perinatal and Neonatal Levels of Care Map showing OB service levels at all hospitals with an ED in Maine and can be found under “Resources” at <https://www.maine.gov/ems/EMSpediatriccare>.



Any immediate patient care concerns should utilize OLMC, administrative questions can be directed to Marc Minkler, EMS for Children Program Manager at Marc.A.Minkler@maine.gov or by phone at 207-626-3867