

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH

THE COMMISSIONER

**Notice of Certificate of Need Call for Intermediate and Intensive Bassinets in
Certain Counties**

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (Department), is inviting certificate of need applications on a full review basis to establish intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinets in certain counties in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:33, 8:33C, and 8:43G and N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq. The certificate of need call excludes changes in perinatal designation and changes in consortium membership. Those hospitals that currently operate temporary intermediate or intensive neonatal bassinets shall apply to formally approve temporary bassinets.

The Department has calculated occupancy rates for intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinets for the years 2016 and 2017 and has found that there are hospitals with high occupancy rates. Hospitals in counties in which there are reported occupancy rates of 70 percent or greater for combined bassinets (intermediate and intensive) in either 2016 or 2017 are eligible to apply. In addition, any acute care hospital currently licensed as a perinatal center in a county with a need as determined by the Department may apply if it can demonstrate, with 2018 data, that its neonatal occupancy levels are 70 percent or greater. For this certificate of need call, the Department has combined intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinet need due to the current practice of

maintaining a neonatal patient in one bassinet throughout the course of the neonate's admission.

The Department has found need based on 70 percent or greater occupancy rates in the following counties: Mercer, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties in the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; Bergen, Morris, and Passaic Counties in the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey Consortium; and Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Cumberland Counties in the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative Consortium.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that the number of bassinets requested shall reduce occupancy levels to 70 percent or lower. Since licensure standards for neonatal bassinets are dependent upon bassinet service level (intermediate and intensive), applicants are required to specify the level of bassinet requested in each application. All applicants must also demonstrate that the project can be licensed within two years of certificate of need approval and be in compliance with N.J.A.C. 8:33, 8:33C, and 8:43G and N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.

Therefore, certificate of need applications for the addition of intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinets will be accepted as follows:

Certificate of need applications shall be filed in accordance with the Certificate of Need Application and Review Process, N.J.A.C. 8:33, and shall be in compliance with all applicable planning and licensing rules. Applicants are required to complete the Application for Certificate of Need for Designation as a Perinatal Facility (CN-4) form supplemented by the Application for Certificate of Need for Hospital Related Projects—Full Review (CN-3) form available on the Department's website.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-1.2(d), certificate of need applications shall be reviewed for conformity with the rules in effect on the date the certificate of need application is deemed complete for processing.

Geographic areas to be served: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, and Passaic Counties.

Date application is due: June 3, 2019.

Date completeness review decision is anticipated to be issued: September 6, 2019.

Date State Health Planning Board scheduled to review applications and submit recommendations to the Commissioner: December 5, 2019.