

RISK APPROPRIATE PERINATAL CARE



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★ RISK APPROPRIATE PERINATAL CARE

The goal of Risk Appropriate Perinatal Care is to increase the percentage of Very Low Birth Weight (<1500 grams) infants born in hospitals with a level III or higher neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

📢 DELAWARE'S COMMUNITY VOICE

"Fathers were excited about expecting their children but concerned about the health of their wives/partners and unborn babies. Many fathers had experienced serious health conditions with their wives/partners such as prior miscarriages, unplanned cesarean deliveries and preeclampsia. Some deliveries resulted in infants who were born premature or with complications who were placed in neonatal intensive care."

✓ FEDERAL OBJECTIVES

Ensure that higher risk mothers and newborns deliver at appropriate level hospitals that are able to provide proper care.

- Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW) infants (<1,500 grams or 3.25 pounds) are the most fragile newborns.
- When born in a facility with a level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a sub-specialty facility equipped to handle high-risk neonates, a VLBW infant's chances to survive and thrive improve greatly.

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Although they represented less than 2% of all births in 2010, VLBW infants accounted for 53% of all infant deaths, with a risk of death over 100 times higher than that of normal birth weight infants (≥2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds).

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