

PUBLIC NOTICES

HEALTH

THE COMMISSIONER

Notice of Cancellation of Certificate of Need Call for Maternal and Child Health Services

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (Department), hereby publishes notice that the scheduled January 2, 2024, call for certificate of need applications for regionalized perinatal services and maternal and child health services in accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:33 and N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., is now canceled.

By way of background, the Department of Health (Department) published a notice announcing a call for Certificate of Need applications for Intermediate and Intensive Bassinets on February 2, 2019 (2019 CN Call). The 2019 CN Call invited hospitals from Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, and Passaic Counties to apply for intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinets on a full review basis. In the 2019 CN Call, the Department combined intermediate and intensive neonatal bassinet needs due to the current practice of maintaining a neonatal patient in one bassinet throughout the neonate's admission.

Department administrative rules at N.J.A.C. 8:33C-2.8 provide for a formula that is required to be used in the determination of the need for bassinets that must be utilized in the CN process. As the formula utilized obsolete data and is no longer collected, the

Department determined in planning for the 2019 CN Call to utilize another formula developed by examining the occupancy and utilization numbers for bassinets from existing providers in each county. However, because existing rules at N.J.A.C. 8:33C-2.8 set forth a specific formula that must be used to determine the need for this service, the decision to utilize a different formula was made in error, and the Department did not complete the review process.

The Department is in the process of examining and reevaluating the rules and intends to develop new standards for determining the need for intermediate and intensive NICU bassinets. As this process cannot be completed in time to accommodate the January 2, 2024 scheduled call, the call is canceled.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a), the next scheduled call for regionalized perinatal services and maternal and child health services will be January 2, 2025. The Department will continue to monitor the utilization and availability of regionalized perinatal services and maternal and child health services and, should the need arise, issue a future call for these services before January 2, 2025.