

**641—150.10(135,77GA,ch1221) Level III centers.**

**150.10(1) *Definition and function.*** Level III centers provide the same care and services as Level II regional centers, plus they manage high-risk pregnancies and neonates, with the possible exception of a few very specialized complications. The Level III center is an extension of the Level II regional center and serves the same regional functions. The differentiating factor between them is primarily one of additional professional staff and more extensive physical facilities. There may be multiple Level III centers in the same city.

**150.10(2) *Physical facilities.*** Level III centers have the same physical facilities as Level II regional centers; however, they have more equipment and serve a more complicated patient population.

**150.10(3) *Medical personnel.***

*a.* The medical director of the maternal-fetal intensive care unit is a full-time, board-eligible or board-certified obstetrician with certification in maternal-fetal medicine.

*b.* The medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit is a full-time, board-eligible or board-certified pediatrician with certification in neonatal/perinatal medicine.

*c.* Anesthesia providers on staff have special training or experience in obstetric and pediatric anesthesia.

*d.* A pediatric surgeon is on staff.

*e.* A pediatric cardiologist is on staff.

*f.* These physicians must be immediately available to the Level III center and reside in the same metropolitan area as the hospital.

*g.* A neonatologist should be on the premises when unstable critically ill infants are in the Level III center. An obstetrician should be on the premises when unstable critically ill mothers are in the Level III center.

**150.10(4) *Nursing personnel.*** Level III centers have the same minimal requirements for nursing personnel as Level II regional centers. The nurse managers of the perinatal units in Level III centers have prior experience in maternal or pediatric nursing and have a minimum of a bachelor of science in nursing degree, or a bachelor's degree in a related field.

**150.10(5) *Outreach education.*** Level III centers have the same responsibilities for outreach education as Level II regional centers.

**150.10(6) *Allied health personnel and services.*** Level III centers have the same allied health personnel and services as Level II regional centers. Additionally, Level III centers have respiratory therapists, certified lab technicians/blood gas technicians, X-ray technologists and ultrasound technicians with neonatal/perinatal experience available on a 24-hour basis. Level III centers also have social work services with social workers assigned specifically to the maternal and neonatal units.

**150.10(7) *Infection control.*** Infection control guidelines are the same as for Level II regional centers.

**150.10(8) *Newborn safety.*** Level III centers have at least the same requirements for newborn safety as Level II regional centers.

**150.10(9) *Maternal-fetal transport.*** Level III centers have the same requirements for maternal-fetal transport as Level II regional centers. In addition, Level III centers are capable of providing ground and air transportation whose crews have demonstrated competencies in maternal/neonatal resuscitation. Important decisions to be made jointly will include the appropriateness of transport, the best mode of transportation, the need for additional personnel accompanying the transport, and the appropriate medical management to initiate prior to transport.

**150.10(10) *Perinatal care committee.*** Level III centers maintain a perinatal care committee with additional representation by surgical specialties.