



Taking Quality To Heart...

a community report on patient care quality

Licking Memorial Health Systems

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At Licking Memorial Hospital, we take pride in the care we provide. And we want you to know why. Each month we're producing a community report card. In this report, we'll give you a more in depth look at our services, share care experiences and health advice, and show you how our quality indicators compare to industry standards.

You'll soon discover why Licking Memorial Hospital has made the nation's 100 Top Hospitals list for two consecutive years.

Maternity Care

How do we compare?

Nothing in life is more precious than a new baby. At Licking Memorial Hospital, we're giving our newborns the best possible start by making sure our maternity care meets both state and national standards.

Two common standards of care for Maternity Services are cesarean section rates or "C-section" rates and VBAC rates (Vaginal Birth After a Cesarean delivery). Both of these quality indicators are reported annually to the Ohio Department of Health.

1. A C-section, the surgical delivery of an infant, is often medically necessary. (For an example, see SUCCESS STORY.) Hospitals and birthing centers review C-section rates to make sure the procedure is being performed when appropriate.

C-Sections	Licking Memorial ¹	State ²	National ³	Desired Trend
	19.6%	19.2%	21.6%	lower

2. Once a woman has had a C-section delivery, there is a good chance her next delivery will be a C-section as well. However, VBACs or Vaginal Births After Cesarean sections should be attempted to avoid inappropriate repeat C-sections.

VBACs	Licking Memorial ¹	State ²	National ³	Desired Trend
	31.9%	33.7%	28.8%	higher

3. The health benefits of breastfeeding have long been proven. At Licking Memorial, we provide lactation consultation during and following hospitalization to help new mothers who wish to breastfeed. We encourage teens (19 and under) to breastfeed, particularly if prenatal care was not routinely received.

Breastfeeding	Licking Memorial 1998 - overall	Licking Memorial 1998 - teens	Licking Memorial 1999- overall	Licking Memorial 1999 - teens
	47.4%	35.3%	48.5%	35.2%

4. An Apgar Score reflects the state of an infant's physical condition one minute after birth. The evaluation includes the heart rate, respiration, muscle tone, response to stimuli and color. A score of 0, 1 or 2 is given to each category, with a maximum possible total of 10. If an Apgar Score is below 5 at 1 minute or 7 at 5 minutes, neonatal resuscitation should be administered.⁴

Apgar Scores/Times ⁴	% of LMH Births	Resuscitation Performed ⁴
< 5 at 1 minute	4.3%	100%
< 7 at 5 minutes	1.7%	100%

100% of all nurses on the LMH maternity unit are certified by the American Heart Association in neonatal resuscitation. Only nursery nurses are required by the Ohio Department of Health to be certified.

5. Group B streptococcus (GBS) has been the leading bacterial infection associated with illness and death among newborns in the United States since its emergence in the 1970s. Most neonatal GBS infections can be prevented through screenings and, if needed, the use of a special antibiotic.

GBS Screening	LMH	National Benchmark ⁵
GBS Screens for women at 35-37 weeks	100% (1999)	100%
Antibiotic at time of labor for women screening positive	91% ⁶	100%

1 LMH as reported by the Ohio Department of Health in its most recent report (1998).
2 Ohio Department of Health 1998 data for Level I Maternity Centers. (Most recent report.)
3 Maryland Hospital Association national data for 1999.
4 The Apgar score is named after its inventor the late Dr. Virginia Apgar. Apgar ranges are from the perinatal guidelines of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Resuscitation standards have been set by the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. LMH 1999 data.
5 Centers for Disease Control, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics. 1999 data.
6 LMH began measuring January 1, 2000.

SUCCESS STORY

Holding Life in the Palm of your Hand...

The day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year, Sarah Miller and her four children headed to the Indian Mound Mall. Nine months pregnant, Sarah was anxious to get a jump-start on her holiday shopping. By early afternoon, Sarah began to experience some mild contractions. All seemed normal until she discovered that she was bleeding. Having experienced childbirth four times before, Sarah knew something was seriously wrong.

She quickly got into her car and headed for Licking Memorial Hospital. By the time she reached the Emergency Department, Sarah was in trouble.

"They worked so fast. I just couldn't believe it," she recounts.

Sarah was taken directly to the maternity floor where nurse Tracy Downs' quick action made the medical difference for the unborn child. The baby's umbilical cord had come down the birth canal in front of the infant. If labor was not stopped, the pressure from the baby's head would pinch the cord, cutting off the infant's own blood supply. In a split second, Tracy relieved the pressure by using her fingers to support the baby's head.

Now united, Sarah and Tracy were wheeled into an operating room on the labor and delivery unit where a medical team stood ready to perform an emergency cesarean section. "The nurse held my baby's head through the whole thing, which was about 30 minutes in all," Sarah said.

What started out as a critical situation turned joyous for Sarah and Tim Miller when they heard their son's first cry. "We call him our little miracle baby because in a matter of minutes, he wouldn't have made it."

Once stabilized, the "miracle baby" was taken to an adjacent special care nursery for continued monitoring.

"I could not believe how smoothly everything went for something so unexpected," Sarah said. "You just can't put a price on that."

Sarah and Tim had all four of their other children at Licking Memorial Hospital, but had planned a midwife delivery this time.

"The whole thing seemed unreal. You think that they're going to be okay, but it doesn't always work out that way," Sarah said. "I'm just glad we have a hospital in our community."

Sarah was cared for by an experienced nursing staff and a medical team consisting of obstetricians A. Jay Eckhardt, M.D., and Peter Harroff, M.D., pediatrician Terry Barber, M.D., and anesthesiologist Hsien Hsu, M.D.

"I was so thankful for their care," says the mom of an infant due on Thanksgiving Day.



Sarah Miller is shown with maternity nurse Tracy Downs and miracle baby Christian Emanuel. "We thought he needed a very special name after all he went through," Sarah says.

"I was so thankful for their care."

Fast Facts

- Maternity centers are divided into levels I, II and III. Licking Memorial is a Level I maternity center, which means the hospital provides obstetrical care for uncomplicated pregnancies and newborn care to infants with uncomplicated conditions or with problems that are expected to resolve rapidly. Level I centers also provide medical management in the event of an emergency.
- Licking Memorial Hospital maintains patient transfer agreements with both The Ohio State University Medical Center and Children's Hospital of Columbus to expedite the transfer of expectant mothers and newborns, respectively, who need critical care.
- The Ohio Department of Health conducts an annual on-site review of the LMH Maternity Unit. Licking Memorial was inspected January 20 and was found in compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- The LMH maternity staff has more than 400 years of nursing experience.

Other reported statistics of interest:

	State ¹	Licking County
Teenage Pregnancy	13%	13.2%
Low Birth Weight (<2500 grams)	7.8%	5.3%
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000)	8%	6.7%
Number of births at LMH in 1999		1,059

If you are newly pregnant or planning a pregnancy, attend our next maternity tour Sunday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m. Call 348-4YOU to register.