

# WOMEN'S HEALTH

## Regional Tertiary Centers

### What is the purpose of the program?

To provide and ensure an appropriate, accessible high-risk perinatal and neonatal health care system that meets the needs of high risk infants and women in Georgia. Perinatal is defined as the period from conception to four weeks postpartum. Neonatal is the first 28 days of an infant's life.

### What does the program do?

The program provides funding to six designated regional tertiary hospitals to provide high-risk perinatal services including, transportation, prenatal care, delivery, post-partum care, and newborn care. Tertiary hospitals also provide outreach and education to area providers to ensure a seamless community-based system.

### How many people are helped by the program?

In FY 2008, the Regional Perinatal Centers provided care for 4,366 high-risk neonates and 11,574.89 high-risk maternal patients.

### Why is the program important?

The Regional Perinatal Centers provide a system of high-risk maternal and infant care. Research indicates that ensuring that high-risk pregnant women and newborns receive risk-appropriate care can reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

### Who is eligible?

All women and infants who are high risk are accepted for services at the six regional tertiary hospitals without regard to income. Women and infants who meet program medical criteria (high-risk) and whose incomes are below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for funding.

### Where are services located?

Services are provided statewide through the six designated tertiary care hospitals located in Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Columbus, Albany, and Savannah.

### Outcome measures

Increase the percentage of very low birth weight infants delivered at facilities for high-risk deliveries and neonates.

### Legislative Authority

Title XIX, Title V of Social Security Act

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<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/perinatal/>

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