Dignity Health
A member of CommonSpirit

Public Notice: Closure of Family Birth Center

Dignity Health - Mercy General Hospital
4001 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Date of Public Notice: November 16, 2026
Proposed Effective Date of Service Closure: March 16, 2027

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 1255.25, Dignity Health Mercy General Hospital (Mercy General) is providing public notice of the closure of its Family Birth Center and associated obstetric and neonatal services, including Labor and Delivery, antepartum services, postpartum/mother-baby care, obstetrical emergency department (OB ED), routine newborn services, and related nursery services, effective March 16, 2027.

Description of the Closure of Services

Mercy General is closing its Family Birth Center and the following associated services:

- **Services for closure:** Labor and Delivery, antepartum services, postpartum/mother-baby care, OB ED, routine newborn services, and associated nursery services.
- **Number of licensed/staffed beds affected:** 17 Perinatal/Nursery Beds.
- **Probable decrease in personnel:** The closure of services is anticipated to result in a reduction of approximately **50** positions. This estimate reflects the anticipated staffing impact associated with the transition of Labor and Delivery, antepartum services, postpartum/mother-baby care, OB ED and newborn services. The final number of affected positions may vary based on staffing needs, employee reassignment opportunities, and operational considerations.
- **Summary of services being closed:** The closure of the Family Birth Center will result in the elimination of inpatient obstetric and neonatal services currently provided by the hospital.

Following the closure, Mercy General will no longer provide planned labor and delivery or inpatient perinatal and neonatal care. Patients presenting to the Emergency Department with pregnancy-related concerns will continue to receive an appropriate medical screening examination, evaluation, stabilization, and emergency care consistent with the hospital's capabilities. Patients requiring labor and delivery or inpatient obstetric services will be transferred to an appropriate facility when clinically indicated.

Three Nearest Available Comparable Services

The three nearest healthcare facilities providing comparable perinatal services and serve both Medi-Cal and Medicare patients are:

1. **Sutter Medical Center**
   1020 29th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
   Phone: (916) 887-0000
   Approximate distance from Mercy General Hospital: 1.1 Miles
   Serves Medi-Cal patients: Yes
   Serves Medicare patients: Yes

2. **UC Davis Medical Center**
   4301 X Street
   Sacramento, CA 95817
   Phone: (916) 734-2011

   Approximate distance from Mercy General Hospital: 1.6 Miles
   Serves Medi-Cal patients: Yes
   Serves Medicare patients: Yes

3. **Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center**
   2025 Morse Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825
   Phone: (916) 973-5000
   Approximate distance from Mercy General Hospital: 9.8 Miles
   Serves Medi-Cal patients: Yes
   Serves Medicare patients: Yes

Several Dignity Health/CommonSpirit-affiliated hospitals in or around Mercy General Hospital provide comparable obstetrical and labor and delivery services, including Methodist Hospital of Sacramento (approximately 10.3 miles away), Mercy San Juan Medical Center (approximately 12.9 miles away, and a facility which offers a full spectrum of labor and delivery services, including specialized high-risk obstetrical care and a Level III neonatal intensive care unit), Mercy Hospital of Folsom (approximately 22.9 miles away) and Woodland Memorial Hospital (approximately 26 miles away). You can learn more about those hospitals and services here.

Patient Population and Services Provided During the Previous Five Years

The following information represents statistically deidentified and aggregated data regarding patients who received perinatal services at Mercy General during the five years preceding this notice.

Conditions treated:

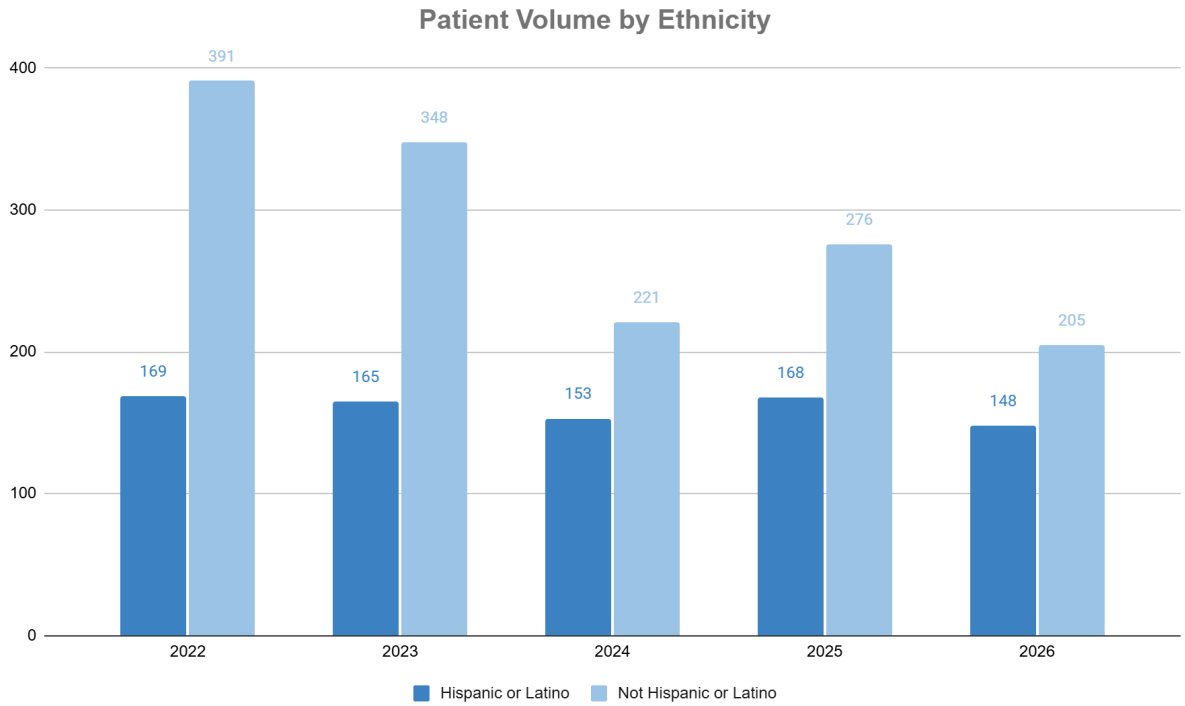
Volume by top 10 primary diagnosis

Volume by top 10 primary diagnosis						
Primary diagnosis	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*	**Grand total**
Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally	560	513	374	444	351	**2242**
Single liveborn infant, delivered by	316	275	180	203	143	**1117**

cesarean						
Post-term pregnancy	128	112	88	105	70	**503**
Streptococcus B carrier state complicating childbirth	35	21	29	30	23	**138**
Encounter for full-term uncomplicated delivery	57	32	18	13	9	**129**
Gestational diabetes mellitus in childbirth, diet controlled	22	16	21	32	26	**117**
First degree perineal laceration during delivery	26	25	10	11	10	**82**
Gestatnl htn without significant protein, comp childbirth	18	18	11	22	12	**81**
Labor and del comp by cord around neck, w/o comprsn, unsp	16	26	22	10	-	**74**
Full-term prem ROM, onset labor within 24 hours of rupture	-	16	10	13	21	**60**
Grand total	**1178**	**1054**	**763**	**883**	**665**	

** Through October 2026*

Ethnicities of Patients Served:



Ethnicities of patients served:						
Ethnicity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Hispanic or Latino	169	165	153	168	148	
Not Hispanic or Latino	391	348	221	276	205	

** Through October 2026*

Ages of patients served: Newborn to 62 years of age.

Patient insurance/payor information:

Volume by top 10 insurances

Volume by top 10 insurances						
Primary insurance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	**Grand total**
HEALTH NET GMCP-VIVANT HEALTH	67	50	58	52	51	**278**
BLUE CROSS GMCP-VIVANT	41	43	38	75	39	**236**

HEALTH						
HEALTH NET GMCP-HILL BEINRSV	43	33	43	61	38	**218**
MOLINA GMCP-VIVANT HEALTH	60	28	34	39	37	**198**
MOLINA GMCP-WELLSPACE NEXUS ABCEINRSV	-	17	46	54	42	**159**
WESTERN HLTH ADV CAP-MMG ABCEINRSV	49	48	-	-	9	**106**
MOLINA GMCP-OVERRIDE ADDRESS	40	20	21	21	-	**102**
MEDI-CAL-MEDI-CAL	26	29	18	14	13	**100**
BLUE CROSS GMCP-OVERRIDE ADDRESS	31	29	22	-	-	**82**
AETNA MCAL GMCP-AETNA MCAL GMCP	24	34	-	-	-	**58**
	381	**331**	**280**	**316**	**229**	

Justification for the Closure of Services

Over at least the last four years, and in what has already been a low-volume unit, Mercy General's perinatal unit has experienced significant declines in utilization. The unit's average daily census ("ADC") declined from 6.6 patients in fiscal year 2022 to 4.35 patients in fiscal year 2026. During the same period, the number of live births at Mercy General has also substantially declined. More generally, Sacramento County has reported a 4% decline in birth rates since 2021. The number of births is expected to further decline by 8% between 2024 to 2034, which only further suggests there will be a reduced demand for labor and delivery services within Mercy General's service area in the years to come.

In part due to the unit's low levels of utilization, Mercy General has also experienced significant difficulties maintaining sufficient physician and nursing staff to support the perinatal unit. The building housing Mercy General's perinatal unit is also over 100 years old. These staffing challenges, together with the sustained decline in utilization and the age of the facility, among other factors, have led Mercy General to determine that it can no longer support the 17 licensed perinatal beds and related labor and delivery services, and that the hospital's charitable mission would be better served by enabling MGH to conserve and concentrate its resources in order to address the community's current and future healthcare needs.

As part of the Dignity Health network, we are focused on reallocating resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of our core hospital services, including emergency, cardiac, and complex surgical care. We are committed to supporting our patients to ensure continuity of care within the Sacramento region.

Public Comment Interested members of the public are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal:

Dignity Health Mercy General Hospital
Attn: Administration
4001 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
Telephone: (916) 453-4545
Email: GSD-Communications@commonspirit.org

President & CEO
Steven Foster
Mercy General Hospital
4001 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
Telephone: (916) 453-4538
Email: Steven.Foster4@commonspirit.org

Public Hearing
Mercy General Hospital will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed elimination of perinatal services within 60 days of this notice.

- **Public Hearing Date:** December 15, 2026
- **Where:** Dignity Health Collaborative Learning Center
- **Location:** 1700 Tribute Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95815
- **Time**: 6pm

Written public comments may be submitted in advance of the hearing using the contact information provided above. Members of the public will also have an opportunity to provide comments during the hearing, both in person and remotely.

Details regarding the hearing agenda and remote participation will be posted on the hospital's website at https://www.commonspirit.org/dignity-health-sacramento.

This notice is provided pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 1255.25.