

DATE: December 15, 2025

TO: Michigan Birthing Hospitals

FROM: Dawn Shanafelt, Director, Division of Maternal & Infant Health *Dawn*

SUBJECT: MDHHS Maternal Health Quality Payments in 2026

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will be providing maternal health quality payments again in September 2026 to birthing hospitals who are fully participating in the Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (MI AIM) collaborative and are participating in The Joint Commission's (TJC) Maternal Levels of Care (MLC) Verification Program.

The intent of the maternal health quality payments is to support maternal health quality improvement efforts. Additionally, costs associated with the MLC verification program – including the annual fee and the on-site visit fee – are covered by MDHHS via the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center.

To receive the quality payment in September 2026, Michigan birthing hospitals must meet all the following requirements by July 31, 2026:

For birthing hospitals that submitted the MLC application in 2024 or 2025:

1. Provide a signed commitment form renewing participation for 2026 in the MI AIM collaborative: [2026 MI-AIM commitment agreement](#) forms should be emailed to help@miaim.org.
2. Fully participate in MI AIM, including submitting data for MI AIM safety bundles (e.g., hypertension, hemorrhage, and/or sepsis).
3. Complete the on-site visit from The Joint Commission no more than one year after submission of the MLC application.

For birthing hospitals planning to apply for MLC verification in 2026:

1. Provide a signed commitment form renewing participation for 2026 in the MI AIM collaborative: [2026 MI-AIM commitment agreement](#) forms should be emailed to help@miaim.org.
2. Fully participate in MI AIM, including submitting data for MI AIM safety bundles (e.g., hypertension, hemorrhage, and/or sepsis).
3. Determine your facility's level of care and complete all required steps to submit The Joint Commission's MLC Verification Program application.

Birthing hospitals interested in learning more can visit the [MHA MLC Toolkit website](#). [Questions can be directed to Dominique Abram \(AbramD@michigan.gov\) and Meagan Chuey \(ChueyM@Michigan.gov\) of the MDHHS Division of Maternal and Infant Health.](#)