

# Paternity Headlines

Virginia Paternity Establishment Program

“Add the Dad”



June 2022

## VPEP Annual Certification Deadline

The deadline for our annual training certifications was May 31, 2021. All birth registrars who administer the voluntary paternity establishment process must be in compliance. If you have not taken the module, please do so by June 30th and email your certificate to your Outreach Coordinator or the VPEP office. The certification consist of reading 10 sections in the VPEP manual and taking the online quiz to apply what you have read in the manual. You must pass the quiz with a 80% or higher and can answer each question twice.

The training is available on our website at [www.vapaternity.com/training](http://www.vapaternity.com/training). Follow the instructions and prompts until you finish all quizzes for all ten sections. You will be asked to enter your name and a certificate will be generated. You can download the certificate for your record and to send to VPEP. Instructions for accessing and completing the module are available upon request.

New hires have 30 days after date of hire to complete the certification. If hired before May 31, 2022, birth registrars have 30 days after hire to complete the certification and must complete re-certification by May 31, 2023. If hired within the dates of June 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, birth registrars have 30 days after hire to complete the certification and must complete re-certification by May 30, 2024.

We look forward to assisting with recertifications. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for all you do for Virginia’s families!

## Quarterly Meetings

We will host quarterly meetings for our low performing hospitals. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd at 1:00pm. Your Outreach Coordinator will ensure all invited hospital staff receive the meeting link to access the meeting. We will discuss best practices, strategies for improvement and give program updates to provide additional support.

## 2021 Performance Report Cards Issued

VPEP issued the 2021 report cards to hospitals. The report detailed how successfully your hospital performed in our paternity establishment program. The purpose of the report card is to ensure accountability of Virginia’s birthing hospitals in relation to the mandated state and federal laws. Enclosed with the report are the following two rankings: performance for all birthing hospitals in Virginia and a comparison with hospitals of similar size and delivery counts.

Please continue to make sure the accurate and timely completion of the AOP form is a top priority for your hospital in 2022. A physical copy of the report card and a letter explaining the contents will be mailed to the CEO/President of your hospital. If you would like to discuss the report card or have any questions about the report card, please contact our office at 1-866-398-4841 or email Program Manager, Brionna Jones at [brjones@veritas-hhs.com](mailto:brjones@veritas-hhs.com).

| Hospital        | Paternity Establishment Rate | Annual Grade | Hospital's Annual Ranking | # of Rejected documents/ |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|                 | XXX                          | A            | 6 of 59                   | 4                        |
| State's Average | 73.68%                       | B            |                           |                          |

**Strengths**

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**Weaknesses**

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Hospital establishment performance requirements are set by the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program in partnership with Division of Child Support Enforcement. The numbers reflected above in "Hospital Ranking" are determined by the number of Acknowledgment of Paternity forms approved.

Federal and State Mandate:  
Under federal law, all states must have procedures for a simple civil process to voluntarily acknowledge paternity available at hospitals. For more information please refer the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993.  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cas/resource/final-rule-implementing-part-of-the-paternity-establishment-act>

State law also mandated hospital participation in the paternity establishment program. Please reference Code of VA Title 63.2, Welfare (Social Services) Chapter 19, Child Support Enforcement § 63.2-1914. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter19/section63.2-1914/>

Supporting Documentation:  
Report 1. Please see the attached report which reflects the ranking from highest to lowest establishment rate of the birthing facilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.  
Report 2. Compares hospitals with a similar number of annual births ranking from highest to lowest establishment rates.

If you would like to discuss this report or have questions, please contact the Program Manager, Brionna Jones at 804-418-0997 or by email of [bjones@veritas-hhs.com](mailto:bjones@veritas-hhs.com).





## Quarterly Incentive Program



VPEP announces our quarterly incentive winners every quarter. Our recognition program acknowledges the hard work of birth registrars at hospitals who achieve the following quarterly performance measures:

1. Achieve the state benchmark of 80% or above
2. Zero AOP rejections
3. Increase the PEP rate by 5% or more

VPEP will also issue an annual award to the hospital with the highest PEP rate. Incentives are distributed by Outreach Coordinators and announced via email and the quarterly newsletter.

## Notary Requirement

Did you know that having a current notary stamp is a required component of your job? It is extremely important to obtain and maintain your notary stamp. Did you also know that using an ink stamp for AOPs is standard, however, if your parent lives outside of Virginia then an embossed seal is required? Also remember that it is your responsibility to inform the Office of Vital Records if any of your notary information has changed, such as renewals or a name change. For more information on obtaining and maintaining your notary, please log onto [www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/notary](http://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/notary).

## VPEP Reminders

- New staff hires need to complete annual training within 30 days of hire
- Send copies of AOPs into our office weekly
- Contact your Outreach Coordinator when you need more educational materials
- Keep your notary status current
- Use the resources on our website, [vapaternity.com](http://vapaternity.com)

## VPEP Parent Video

Be sure to ask parents to scan our QR code stickers to view our parent video!



**Remember, the state benchmark for paternity establishment is 80%.**

Each hospital should strive to achieve this PEP rate monthly. Our paternity establishment calculator is located on our website to help you track your hospital's performance. Your Outreach Coordinator will monitor your performance and work with you to achieve the desired benchmark. Your Outreach Coordinator will also work with you to provide a gift card or other incentive for those who meet the 80% benchmark or have a 5% point increase in their PEP rate over the quarter.

## Did You Know VPEP Has a Blog & Social Media?

Establishing Paternity is important! Read our blog to obtain pertinent information regarding paternity establishment at [www.vapaternity.com/resources/blog](http://www.vapaternity.com/resources/blog).

Please follow us on our social media platforms and engage with us:



Va Paternity



Va Paternity



Va Paternity

## Secure Fax reminders...

Thank you all for switching over to our fax system. Below is some feedback to make the process flow better.

1. Only fax or mail your AOPs. We do not need them sent twice.
2. Send AOPs weekly. There are a few hospitals who are sending single AOPs several times a week or faxing single AOPs one by one to us in separate faxes. Sending them in groups is best.
3. On our fax cover sheet, write the number of AOPs you are sending, not the number of pages.
4. Mail AOPs if you are experiencing technical difficulties with sending a fax. Our PO box remains open.

We will contact hospital birth registrars if there is an issue with the faxes we receive. Thanks again for working with us on the secure fax system and please contact us with any questions.



# Quarterly Incentive Awards



## Congratulations!!

### 2021 4th quarter awardees (Oct-Dec)

#### Top Performer:

**Bon Secours Memorial Regional &  
Stafford Hospital Center: 88.3%**

#### Hospitals with an 80% PEP rate or higher

Ballad Johnston Memorial Hospital  
 Bon Secours Mémorial Regional Medical Center  
 Bon Secours St Francis Medical Center  
 Carilion New River Valley Medical Center  
 Johnston Willis Hospital  
 Inova Alexandria Hospital  
 Inova Fair Oaks Hospital  
 Inova Loudoun Hospital  
 Mary Washington Hospital  
 Novant Health Systems UVA Culpeper Hospital  
 Sentara Careplex Hospital  
 Sentara Leigh Hospital  
 Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital  
 Sentara Northern VA Medical Center  
 Sentara Princess Anne  
 Sentara RMH Medical Center  
 Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center  
 Stafford Hospital Center  
 Stonesprings Hospital Center  
 Twin County Regional Hospital  
 Virginia Hospital Center  
 Winchester Medical Center

#### Hospitals with a 5% point increase or more

Ballad Johnston Memorial Hospital  
 Bon Secours Mémorial Regional Medical Center  
 Carilion New River Valley Medical Center  
 Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital  
 Chesapeake Regional Healthcare  
 Fauquier Hospital  
 Novant Health Systems UVA Culpeper Hospital  
 Sentara Careplex Hospital  
 Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital  
 Sentara Norfolk General Hospital  
 Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center  
 Stonesprings Hospital Center

### 2022 1st quarter awardees (Jan-Mar)

#### Top Performer:

**Ballad Norton Community Hospital 96.4%**

#### Hospitals with an 80% PEP rate or higher

Ballad Johnston Memorial Hospital  
 Ballad Norton Community Hospital  
 Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital  
 Johnston Willis Hospital  
 Inova Fair Oaks hospital  
 Inova Fairfax Hospital  
 Mary Immaculate Hospital  
 Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital  
 Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center  
 Sentara Obici Hospital  
 Sentara RMH Medical Center  
 Sovah Health Danville  
 Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center  
 Stafford Hospital Center  
 Stonesprings Hospital Center  
 Virginia Baptist Hospital  
 Winchester Medical Center

#### Hospitals with a 5%-point increase or more

Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital  
 Ballad Norton Community Hospital  
 Inova Fair Oaks Hospital  
 Mary Immaculate Hospital  
 Naval Regional Medical Center  
 Reston Hospital Center  
 Riverside Shore Memorial Center  
 Sentara Obici Hospital  
 SOVAH Health Danville  
 Stonesprings Hospital

**Remember, the state benchmark for paternity establishment is 80%.**  
 Each hospital should strive to achieve this PEP rate monthly. Use our paternity establishment calculator located on our website to make sure you are tracking your hospital's performance. Your Outreach Coordinator will monitor your performance and work with you to achieve the desired benchmark.

# VPEP in the Community

## Eastern Community Partner Spotlight: Bringing Awareness to Needy Families of Virginia

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a program focusing on aiding low-income families with monetary income. These TANF offices are located throughout Virginia and our office (VPEP) is happy to announce that a partnership has been established with two of the offices.

The Chesterfield Department of Social Services' TANF office and the Henrico Department of Social Services' TANF office now have Add the Dad brochures, VPEP infographics, and rack cards that provide information on establishing paternity. Both offices chose to help bring awareness to establishing paternity, by providing these educational materials to their clients, through the lobby area displays and by having the infographics and some brochures displayed in their offices.

VPEP's outreach coordinator, Laphillda Davis, will continue to nurture these partnerships, in an effort to expand to a regional partnership. Laphillda's goal is for mothers and fathers to have access to facts about establishing paternity and for the parents to know that adding the dad to the birth certificate can be extremely beneficial for the family, mom, dad, and baby.

Another very important aspect of this partnership is that TANF can be directly effected by Virginia's paternity establishment. The Federal Government requires each State to reach a 90 percent overall paternity establishment rate and because hospitals have the largest source of paternity establishment, Virginia has set the benchmark at 80 percent for hospitals. If this benchmark is not met at an acceptable rate over a course of time, the federal government can choose to decrease the TANF Block Grant funding by up to 2 percent.

So with Chesterfield and Henrico TANF offices helping VPEP with bringing awareness to establishing paternity, the future looks brighter for some families who need the income.

## Northern Community Partner Spotlight: Loudoun Community Midwives of Berryville

The Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP) is happy to partner with the Loudoun Community Midwives of Berryville. Loudoun Community Midwives is a medical group practice located in Berryville, VA that specializes in midwifery. There are many parents who would prefer to deliver their baby via midwifery services and in the comfort of their own home. The Loudoun Community Midwives provides excellent midwifery care and provides resources to help support parents' needs post-partum.

This group of more than fifteen midwives have experience and training in natural childbirth and work with area hospitals such as the Natural Birthing Center at Inova Loudoun. In addition to their Berryville location, they have offices in Gainesville and in Dulles. We are happy to partner with the Loudoun County Midwives of Berryville and appreciate their efforts in helping us help Virginia's children.

## Paternity Questions answered...

### Can Paternity be Established Posthumously?

Many birth registrars have questioned whether paternity can be established after the father has passed away. This scenario is more common than expected and the answer is yes! Paternity establishment can be done posthumously, but it cannot be done at the hospital. The process varies from county to county, but some counties in the Commonwealth obtain DNA samples from an autopsy. Those samples can be used to establish paternity. Other counties rely on close family members to the deceased to provide DNA samples. If you come across this situation, you can call your county's family court or the Office of Vital Records at (804) 662-6200 for more information.

### Where can I access the information easily when questions arise from our unmarried parents?

The VPEP website is the fastest and best resource to answer questions about paternity establishment regulations and rules. You can download the Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) form from the home page. In addition, the E-Library allows you to quickly and easily access forms, scripts and statutes that you would normally need to locate in a book or manual. Just search by the type of form and the name of the form should appear for you to recognize. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the VPEP office at 1-866-398-4841.