

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Necole Simmonds**  
[Necole.Simmonds@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Necole.Simmonds@dss.virginia.gov)

***Recognition of Excellence:***  
**Top Ten Ranking Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Exceptional Paternity Establishment Rates**

Richmond, Va. (March 24, 2017)- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in conjunction with the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP), announced today the top ten Virginia hospitals recognized for outstanding performance in paternity establishment for 2016. Each of these hospitals accomplished paternity establishment rates greater than 80 percent.

VDSS' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) manages VPEP, which is operated by the Center for the Support of Families, Inc. (CSF). VPEP gives unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity for their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging fatherhood during the mother's hospital stay.

The Commonwealth has a total of 59 birthing hospitals serving parents throughout Virginia. "We are fortunate to continue our partnership with CSF and are happy to congratulate birthing hospitals throughout the state for their commitment to establishing paternity for the children of the Commonwealth," said VDSS Commissioner Margaret Ross Schultze. In addition, Craig Burshem, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Child Support, added, "Paternity establishment is one of the most important gifts a father can give his children to promote their well-being—it's a gift that lasts a lifetime."

The hospital that achieved the highest rate in 2016 is Clinch Valley Medical Center (CVMC), Richlands, Virginia, which averaged a paternity establishment rate of 92.96%. Jean Harrell, Director of Health Information Management, is proud of her team's hard work and said, "We at CVMC are very pleased to be the winner of the 2016 Paternity Establishment Program's highest rate of achievement for the State of Virginia. Our children's futures are a high priority for our staff and the establishment of their paternity can make a difference in the success of their futures. The Health Information Management Staff have worked tirelessly to assure that every baby born in our facility has the best chance possible through paternity establishment. We are pleased to be recognized for our work and for the children who will benefit from the program."

**2016 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment**

<b>Ranking for 2016</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Paternity Establishment Rate</b>
1	Clinch Valley Medical Center	93.0%
2	Wythe County Community Hospital	83.9%
3	Twin County Regional Hospital	83.2%
4	Reston Hospital Center	82.5%
5	Johnston Memorial Hospital	82.3%
6	Novant Health Haymarket Med. Ctr.	82.3%

<b>7</b>	Sentara Princess Anne Hospital	81.8%
<b>8</b>	INOVA Loudoun Hospital Center	81.8%
<b>9</b>	Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery	81.6%
<b>10</b>	Warren Memorial Hospital-Valley Health	81.1%

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