

**Optimal Resources for Children's Surgical Care, 2021 Standards
Standards Manual Change Log**

Standard	Level	Date Change Made	Edit Made	Reason
Standard 3.1: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)	Level II	September 13, 2021	A Level II center may prospectively define its scope of practice to exclude neonatal patients. These centers would not be associated with a birthing center or take neonates in transfer. Typically, these centers would be part of a system with a Level I center that is admitting neonates born within or transferred to the system. If the Level II center does not care for neonates, a NICU is not required but the center must have a PICU and all relevant medical and surgical specialties.	Guidance change
Standard 4.23: Child Maltreatment Services	Level I Specialty Oncology	October 5, 2021	Level IS Oncology centers are not required to have a dedicated child protective or child maltreatment team available 24/7/365 for consultation. While a child maltreatment team is recommended, transfer agreements are acceptable to provide those services when not available. A process and policy must be in place to screen for abuse or suspected abuse of a child. The process and policy must follow state guidelines for reporting suspected child abuse.	Clarification of standard
Standard 4.1: Surgeons	All Levels change to Level III	October 14, 2022	The following criteria apply to General Surgeons at Level III centers: A surgeon with pediatric expertise is defined as a surgeon either in the examination process or with current	Clarification of standard

			<p>certifications from the American Board of Surgery or similar ABMS Board or equivalent. The surgeon will demonstrate continuous experience with children as defined by caring for at least 25 patients ≤ 18 years of age per year and completing 12 or more pediatric AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ credit hours annually</p> <p>All surgeons with pediatric expertise will demonstrate ongoing clinical engagement in children's surgery, as evidenced by the performance of 25 or more procedures annually on patients 18 years or younger.</p> <p>In summary, a Level III children's surgical center must have continuous 24/7 availability within 60 minutes of general surgeons with pediatric expertise; one of these individuals should serve as the primary surgeon for children 5 years or younger with general surgical needs. A general surgeon with pediatric expertise is defined as a surgeon either eligible for certification or certified by the American Board of Surgery or an equivalent body in general surgery. In addition, this individual will demonstrate ongoing clinical engagement and expertise in children's surgery as evidenced by the performance of 25 or more procedures annually in patients younger than 18 years, as well as completion of 12 or more pediatric AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ credit hours annually.</p>	
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