



SpaceMed Rule-of-Thumb

Obstetrical Services Capacity and Preliminary Space Need

Originally printed in the
SpaceMed Newsletter
Spring-Summer 2017
www.spacemed.com

The following guidelines can be used to estimate the capacity and preliminary space need for a labor and delivery suite and an associated antepartum/postpartum nursing unit (if provided). The capacity will vary depending on whether the hospital is deploying the single-room maternity care concept exclusively — using combined labor, delivery, recovery, and postpartum rooms (LDRP rooms) — or if the mother and infant are moved to a separate postpartum unit after delivery. The labor and delivery area will typically include one to three delivery/operating rooms for C-sections and a normal newborn nursery or infant holding area. A designated admission/ triage area is typically provided for higher-volume services.

| Component | Annual Births Per LDRP/LDR Room | DGSF (DGSM) Per LDRP/LDR or Ante/Postpartum Room | Comments |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Labor and Delivery Area: | | | |
| LDRP Concept (Exclusively) | 100 to 200 Annual Births per LDRP Room | 800 to 1,000 (74.3 to 92.9) | <i>Assumes single-room maternity care with exclusive use of combined labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum (LDRP) rooms with the patient discharged from the LDRP room.</i> |
| LDR Concept (Primarily) | 300 to 400 Annual Births per LDR/LDRP Room | 800 to 1,000 (74.3 to 92.9) | <i>Lower capacity range assumes that selected patients will be discharged from the LDR/ LDRP room; higher capacity range assumes that the LDR concept is used exclusively with discharge from a separate postpartum room.</i> |
| Antepartum/ Postpartum Unit | | 450 to 700 (41.8 to 65.0) | <i>Lower space range for a mix of private and semiprivate patient rooms; higher range assumes all private patient rooms and enhanced amenities; excludes shared public lobbies, stairs/elevators, and other common areas not within the nursing unit.</i> |

Note: Department gross square feet/meters (DGSF/DGSM) represents the "footprint" of a department or functional component and includes the net square feet/meters (NSF/NSM) of the individual rooms as well as the space occupied by internal circulation corridors, walls/partitions, and minor utility shafts; DGSF (DGSM) excludes common areas such as shared public corridors and lobbies, elevator banks, stairwells, major mechanical spaces, and the space occupied by the building's exterior wall.

Source: SpaceMed Guide (Third Edition).