

Standard 1. Philosophy and Scope of Services

STANDARD

The birth center is a health care facility for childbirth where care is provided in the midwifery and wellness model. The birth center is freestanding and not a hospital.

Birth centers are an integrated part of the health care system and are guided by principles of prevention, sensitivity, safety, cost-effectiveness, and appropriate medical intervention. While the practice of midwifery and the support of physiologic birth and newborn transition may occur in other settings, this is the exclusive model of care in a birth center.

The birth center respects and facilitates a pregnant person's right to make informed choices about their health care and their baby's health care based on their values and beliefs. The person's family, as they define it, is welcome to participate in the pregnancy, birth, and the post-partum period.

Attributes required for compliance with Standard

A. PHYSICAL LOCATION

1. The birth center is a distinct and separate space based on its location, incorporating signage that identifies the birth center.

B. MODEL OF CARE

1. The model of care, as defined by the principles of midwifery, is to:
 - a) Support birth as a normal life event
 - b) Promote self-care, family engagement and the mother-baby dyad
 - c) Respect the human dignity of each mother and each baby
 - d) Respect cultural diversity
 - e) Focus on education, health promotion and disease prevention

C. SERVICES PROVIDED

1. The birth center provides or demonstrates availability of a mother-centered range of services to meet the physical, emotional, socioeconomic, informational and medical needs of the individual client including, but not limited to:
 - a) A shared decision-making process for all services related to pregnancy, birth and newborn care
 - b) Orientation to the birth center and its model of care
 - c) Written information on the established criteria for admission to, and continuation in, the birth center program of care that is appropriate for the demographics of the