



SUBJECT BRIEF

CABC Accreditation: What Policy Makers Need to Know

Overview

The **American Association of Birth Centers (AABC)** sets the national standards for birth centers in the United States.¹ These standards provide consistent and specific tools for measuring the quality of service provided to childbearing families in birth centers. **The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC)** is an independent not-for-profit dedicated to the quality of the operation and services of birth centers.² CABC has elected to use the AABC Standards as the basis of its accreditation process. CABC sets Indicators of Compliance using the AABC Standards for Birth Centers. CABC accreditation provides facilities with tools, resources, and coaching to ensure the use of current best practices for maternity care, neonatal care, business operations, and safety. CABC-accredited facilities undergo site visits by CABC Accreditation Specialists to confirm each facility is in compliance with AABC Standards.²

CABC Accreditation

- **Indicates High Quality.** CABC accreditation assures clients, regulators, insurers, and the public that a birth center provides high-quality care using evidence-based standards and current best practices for maternal and neonatal practice, business operations, and safety.
- **Is Robust and Comprehensive.** Accreditation Specialists conduct multi-day site visits and review policies, procedures, practice statistics, and patient records, using the Indicators of Compliance to ensure a robust and exhaustive evaluation. Indicators span the breadth and depth of facility services, including patient evaluation for risk factors, readiness for maternal and newborn emergencies, and the collection and review of outcome statistics. The Indicators of Compliance span seven standardized categories: philosophy and scope of practice; planning, governance, and administration; human resources; facility, equipment, and supplies; health records; research; and quality evaluation and improvement.
- **Provides Resources and Support.** CABC-accredited birth centers have access to birth center operations experts and educational materials for support to ensure each facility maintains high-quality care and can swiftly resolve any issues. CABC provides birth centers with tools and coaching to implement various monitoring and evaluation processes, including sentinel event case reviews and regular reviews of facility transfers and practice statistics.
- **Is Recognized by States, Payers, and Professional Organizations.** Multiple states provide accelerated pathways to licensure via CABC accreditation, including granting “deemed status” to accredited birth centers for licensure, thus saving states inspection and administration costs.³ In states that do not license birth centers, many insurers use CABC accreditation in lieu of licensure for the purposes of facility payment, including two states (North Carolina and Louisiana) where

Medicaid recognizes accredited birth centers. CABC-accredited birth centers are also recognized as an appropriate care setting for low-risk birth in the consensus Levels of Maternal Care framework convened and promulgated by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM).

Visit BirthCenterAccreditation.org to learn more about CABC accreditation.

REFERENCES

1. American Association of Birth Centers. Standards for Birth Centers. Perkiomenville, PA: American Association of Birth Centers; 2020.
2. Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. Accreditation and Regulation. Retrieved December 28, 2020. <https://birthcenteraccreditation.org/find-accredited-birth-centers/accreditation-is-the-mark-of-quality/>
3. American Association of Birth Centers, Internal Data on Regulations by State. Unpublished. 2020.

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