



POSITION STATEMENT

Birth Center Quality

The American Association of Birth Centers (AABC) is committed to quality, family-centered, safe maternity care options for women and newborns. Birth centers offer an alternative to traditional hospital-based care for normal and low risk pregnancy and birth. The AABC endorses birth center care models that follow the AABC Standards for Birth Centers. The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC) interprets the standards and issues indicators for accreditation.

Meeting the standards of accreditation indicates to clients, states, health and liability insurance agencies, consulting providers, and hospitals that a birth center has met a high standard of evidence-based and widely recognized benchmarks for maternity care, neonatal care, business operations, and safety. Continuing accreditation demonstrates to consumers and other entities that best practices are being met and maintained by a birth center.

Birth centers that engage in practices that do not meet the standards set by AABC do not reflect the level of quality AABC promotes.

Approved by AABC Board of Directors: 1.24.2014