

# Enhanced Prenatal Care in the Birth Center

## A Value Proposition

Research shows that enhanced prenatal care in a freestanding birth center leads to reduced rates of preterm birth, lower cesarean rates, higher rates of breastfeeding, and higher satisfaction with the care. An investment in this preventative model provides significant cost savings and improved population health, and should be reimbursed at a higher rate than usual prenatal care.

### Key Components Comparison Chart – It's like comparing apples to oranges

Usual Prenatal Care	Enhanced Prenatal Care in the Birth Center Model
Comprehensive labs	Comprehensive labs
Health history and physical exam	Health history and physical exam
Regular monitoring of pregnancy for maternal/fetal health status and normal growth	Regular monitoring of pregnancy for maternal/fetal health status and normal growth
	Individualized health education and support for parenting, lactation, and mental health
	Building a relationship of trust, support, respect and shared decision-making with midwife providers
	Timely access and adequate time for prenatal visits (i.e., individual or group prenatal appointments are scheduled in blocks of thirty minutes to two hours)
	Continuity of care with the same providers including phone access and triage by the midwives to avoid emergency room visits
	Shared decision-making and relationship building with a network of referral providers, promoting seamless transfers to high-risk care if needed and return to birth center care as appropriate
	Continuous quality improvement

Contact AABC to learn how you can increase Medicaid care in birth centers.



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