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**CHAPTER 28: FREE-STANDING BIRTHING CENTERS**

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### **OVERVIEW**

Free-standing birthing centers (FSBCs) provide delivery services to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries not requiring hospitalization and which the expected duration of services would not exceed 24 hours following an admission. A FSBC is a free-standing facility, separate from a hospital, which meets the needs of eligible beneficiaries. Eligible beneficiaries have had a low risk pregnancy, meaning a normal, uncomplicated prenatal course as determined by documentation of adequate prenatal care and the anticipation of a normal, uncomplicated labor and birth, as defined by reasonable and generally accepted criteria adopted by professional groups for maternal, fetal, and neonatal health care.

The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the conditions and requirements an FSBC must meet in order to qualify for reimbursement under the Louisiana Medicaid program. The manual is intended to make available to Medicaid providers of delivery services within FSBCs a ready reference for information and procedural material needed for the prompt and accurate filing of claims for services furnished to Medicaid beneficiaries.