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

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**PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

Free-Standing birthing centers (FSBCs) are required to meet specific criteria for Medicaid enrollment and must complete the enrollment process prior to providing services to Medicaid beneficiaries.

Medicaid FSBCs must meet the following enrollment criteria:

1. Be accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC);
2. Be approved by the Medicaid Medical Director; and
3. Be located within a ground travel time distance from the general acute care hospital with which the center maintains a contractual relationship, including a transfer agreement, that allows for an emergency cesarean delivery to be started within 30 minutes of the decision a cesarean delivery is necessary.

**Staffing Requirements**

FSBCs must have a licensed obstetrician, family practitioner, certified nurse midwife or licensed midwife who shall attend each woman in labor from the time of admission through birth and the immediate postpartum period.

A licensed midwife providing birthing services within the center must:

1. Have passed the national certification exam through the North American Registry of Midwives; and
2. Hold a current, unrestricted state license with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

Physicians, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Licensed Midwives\* enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid are eligible to provide delivery services within Medicaid enrolled FSBCs.

\*Licensed Midwives providing delivery services in FSBCs must comply with the *Louisiana Administrative Code*, Title 46 Professional and Occupational Standards Part XLV. Medical Professions; Subpart 3. Practice; Chapter 53. Licensed Midwives.