

Quality: PROVIDER focused Standards (13)

The midwifery center clearly defines its **scope of practice** including support for normal birth and prohibition of potentially harmful interventions. Referral mechanisms are in place for needs beyond the providers scope of practice.

The midwifery center strives to achieve the **Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding** of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative.

Every woman and newborn routinely receives **evidence-based care**. Written guidelines for major areas of care are periodically reviewed to keep practices up to date with professional guidelines and identify practices that may be unnecessary or harmful.

The midwifery center has a mechanism for **data collection and analysis**. Analysis includes benchmarking with relevant external data sets. Monitoring and evaluation are used for continuous quality improvement. And, quality assessments are shared with the community.

Every woman and newborn has a complete, accurate, standardized **medical record** for all care provided. This record includes the active use of **continual risk assessment** to determine when a referral is required.

Women's health is addressed in a **holistic framework**, both during individual encounters and with community engagement.

Birth services are provided within the **life course** context of sexual and reproductive health.

Women with complications (i.e.: pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, postpartum hemorrhage, obstructed labor) and newborns with complications (i.e.: prematurity, low birth weight, failure to breathe, or possible infection) receive **immediate stabilizing interventions** and are referred.

Every woman and newborn that cannot be managed with the currently available resources are referred according to a **predetermined emergency plan**. There is appropriate information exchange between health facilities. The woman and newborn are referred together and are accompanied by a qualified staff member.

The staff possess and routinely apply **midwifery knowledge and skills** that optimize the normal physiology of birth

At every birth, there are at least **two staff currently trained in the emergency management** of common birth complications.

The midwifery center staff collectively has the skills and competencies to meet the needs of women and newborns during labor, childbirth, and in the early postnatal period. These skills and competencies **meet the standards of International Confederation of Midwives** and the **World Health Organization's training requirements for Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC)**.

The midwifery center conducts **regular professional development programs** including: drills for maternal and newborn emergencies and inservice education on evidence based midwifery care.