

Revision Dates: 4/2/2018; 12/1/2011

General Information

Free Standing Birthing Centers are out-of-hospital, outpatient obstetrical facilities staffed by registered nurses and equipped to manage uncomplicated low-risk labor and delivery. The facility must be affiliated with and in close proximity to an acute care hospital for management of complications if they arise. Birthing centers must be licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services and certified by the Commission for the Accreditation of Free Standing Birthing Centers to be registered with AHCCCS.

Labor and delivery services rendered through free standing birthing centers must be provided by licensed physicians (i.e., the member's attending physician or an obstetrician with hospital admitting privileges), or a certified nurse practitioner in midwifery (a.k.a. certified nurse midwife) or a registered nurse who is both accredited/certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives *and* who has admitting privileges for labor and delivery services.

Only members for whom an uncomplicated prenatal course and a low-risk labor and delivery are anticipated may be scheduled to deliver at a free standing birthing center.

Risk status must be determined by the attending physician or nurse midwife using standardized assessment tools for high-risk pregnancies from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the National Association of Childbearing Centers. The age of the member must be a consideration in the risk status evaluation. Generally, members under 18 years of age may be considered high risk.

Billing Requirements

Birthing centers must bill for services on a UB-04 claim form using Revenue Code 724 (Birthing Center) and Bill Type 84X.

AHCCCS reimburses licensed and certified free standing birthing centers a facility fee that covers labor and delivery services provided to eligible AHCCCS members. Claims for birthing center services are reimbursed at 80 percent of covered charges.

Professional providers must bill separately on a CMS 1500 claim form for prenatal care, delivery, postpartum care, and the newborn exam. Claims for OB services must be billed in accordance with AHCCCS policy. For additional information please refer to Chapter 10, Individual Practitioner Services, of the Fee-For-Service Provider Billing Manual.

Reimbursement for professional services is the lesser of billed charges or the AHCCCS capped-fee-for-service fee schedule amount.

References

For additional information on labor and delivery services provided in a Free Standing Birthing Facility please refer to AMPM 410, Maternity Care Services.

For additional information on billing for professional services please refer to Chapter 10, Individual Practitioner Services and Chapter 4, General Billing Rules, of the Fee-For-Service Provider Billing Manual.

For additional information on what AHCCCS does not consider to be a low-risk delivery, that is not appropriate for a Free Standing Birth Center, please refer to A.A.C R9-16-111 through A.A.C. R9-16-113.

Revision History

Date	Description of changes	Page(s)
4/2/2018	Added a certified nurse practitioner in midwifery as an approved clinician type.	1
	Updated the birthing center reimbursement rate to 80% of covered charges.	1
	A References Section was added for additional information.	2
	Formatting	All