**Where do Certified Nurse Midwives attend deliveries?**

Thought eh majority of CNM attended deliveries are in the hospital setting, they can also attend deliveries in the client’s home and in birth centers.

**What is a birth center, what are the benefits?**

Birth centers are usually free-standing, but can be attached to a hospital or clinic. Birth centers are an alternative place for healthy mothers to deliver healthy babies with little medical intervention. They are generally home-like settings that provide a comfortable place for family centered care during pregnancy and childbirth. Emphasis is the comfort and privacy of the mother and the support of normal childbirth.

Evidence has shown reduced rates of perineal lacerations, episiotomies, and cesarean sections as well as increased rates of breast feeding in within birth centers when compared to hospital births (Walsh et all, 2004).

**Are birth centers safe? How are they regulated?**

The emphasis in birth centers is on low technological intervention, but all birth centers are prepared with emergency equipment and a plan for transfer to a medical facility should the need arise for mother or baby.

Birth centers in the United States are regulated and licensed by the American Association of Birth Centers, or AABC. This governing body provides guidelines for quality assurance, safety, policy and procedure. Additionally, 76% of states have additional regulations in place for birth centers. Accreditation by the AABC is required for insurance reimbursement in the majority of cases. Currently, there are 107 accredited birth centers in the United States. To find a birth center near you and for more information please visit the AABC website at <http://www.birthcenters.org/>.

Walsh, D., & Downe, S. M. (2004). Outcomes of Free-Standing, Midwife-Led Birth Centers: A Structured Review. *Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care*, 31(3), 222-229. doi:10.1111/j.0730-7659.2004.00309.x