

Colorado Safe Transfers Coalition

Glossary

Term	Definition
Birth center	A healthcare facility for childbirth where care is provided in the midwifery and wellness model. Well-person care may also be provided within a birth center. The birth center is freestanding and not a hospital. In the State of Colorado, a birth center is a healthcare facility licensed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and may or may not be nationally accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC).
Birthing person	Gender-inclusive term for people who are or have recently been pregnant, including those who do not identify as women or mothers
Community birth	Birth in a home or freestanding birth center setting. Implies that birth outside a hospital was intended.
Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	Continuous quality improvement (CQI) systems are frameworks for defining, measuring, and improving outcomes on an ongoing basis.
Certified nurse midwife (CNM)	Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) are Registered Nurses who have graduated from a Master's or Doctoral program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Midwifery Education (ACME). CNMs provide preconception care, prenatal care, labor & delivery care, serve as surgical first-assists, care after birth, gynecological exams, well-person care, newborn care, family planning and birth control, menopausal care, and counseling in health maintenance and disease prevention. They also provide primary health care. In Colorado, CNMs are licensed independent practitioners as licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Most CNM births occur in hospitals and some nurse-midwives attend births in the home or in a freestanding birth center. CNMs can write prescriptions and have full prescriptive authority.
Direct Entry Midwife (DEM)	Direct Entry Midwives (DEMs) are midwifery practitioners who have met the standards for certification set by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) for certification as Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs). They provide prenatal care, labor & delivery care and care after birth within the context of home births and births in freestanding birth centers. DEMs do not provide care in hospital settings and are not authorized to write prescriptions. DEMs are Registered in the State of Colorado under Direct Entry Midwife legislation and can use the credential "RM" for "Registered Midwife."

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Doula	A trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a birthing person and their other support people before, during, and after childbirth.
Gender inclusive language	Written, oral and visual communication that does not exclude or discriminate against any particular gender identity.
Informed consent	In healthcare, informed consent is the process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention. The patient must be competent to make a voluntary decision about whether to undergo the procedure or intervention, and retains the power to decline.
Levels of care	<p><u>Classification system</u> for the regionalization of care for birthing people developed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM). The system (sometimes referred to as levels of <i>maternal care</i>) defines the required minimal capabilities, physical facilities, and medical and support personnel for obstetric care.. The system is complementary but distinct from levels of neonatal care because it specifically addresses the health needs of the birthing person.</p> <p>There are four levels of care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level I (Basic Care): Care of low- to moderate-risk pregnancies with ability to detect, stabilize, and initiate management of unanticipated maternal-fetal or neonatal problems that occur during the antepartum, intrapartum, or postpartum period until the patient can be transferred to a facility at which the specialty maternal care is available; • Level II (Specialty Care): Level I facility plus care of appropriate moderate- to high-risk antepartum, intrapartum, or postpartum conditions; • Level III (Subspecialty Care): Level II facility plus care of more complex maternal medical conditions, obstetric complications, and fetal conditions; • Level IV (Regional Perinatal Health Care Centers):)Level III facility plus on-site medical and surgical care of the most complex maternal conditions and critically ill pregnant women and fetuses throughout antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum care.
Obstetric hospitalist (OB hospitalist or OB/GYN hospitalist)	Obstetrician and gynecologist physician who is either employed by a hospital or a physician practice and whose duties include providing care for laboring patients and managing obstetric emergencies. Some obstetrics hospitalists also have responsibilities including resident and medical student teaching; providing collaborative support for family practitioners and nurse midwives, assisting private physicians with surgery, assuming

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	care for ob/gyn patients unassigned to a physician and providing vacation coverage for the private practicing physician. They are the default provider for transfers unless other arrangements have been made.
Peer review	Process in which professionals review each other's work to make sure that it is accurate, relevant, and significant.
Respectful care	Care provided to birthing people in a manner that maintains their dignity, privacy and confidentiality; ensures freedom from harm and mistreatment; and enables informed choice and continuous support (adapted from the World Health Organization).
SBAR Communication	<p>SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation) is a framework to assist members of the healthcare team in communicating about a patient's condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S = Situation (a concise statement of the problem) • B = Background (pertinent and brief information related to the situation) • A = Assessment (analysis and considerations of options — what you found/think) • R = Recommendation (action requested/recommended — what you want)
Stages of labor	Labor is divided into three stages. The first stage of labor begins when labor starts and ends with full cervical dilation to 10 centimeters. The first stage of labor is further subdivided into two phases, defined by the degree of cervical dilation. The <i>latent</i> phase is commonly defined as the 0 to 6 cm, while the <i>active</i> phase commences from 6 cm to full cervical dilation. The second stage of labor commences with complete cervical dilation to 10 centimeters and ends with the delivery of the baby. The third stage of labor commences when the fetus is delivered and concludes with the delivery of the placenta.
Trauma-informed care	Service delivery approach focused on an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, i.e., an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and well-being. Trauma-informed care seeks to promote positive outcomes by emphasizing physical, psychological, and emotional safety and empowering individuals to define their needs and goals and make choices about their care and services.

Term	Definition
Urgent/Emergent transfer	Transfer of a birthing person to a hospital from a community birth setting as a result of emergent clinical development/complications during labor and delivery (e.g., maternal hypertension, retained placenta, postpartum hemorrhage). Urgent does not include the use of lights and sirens. Emergent is used for the unstable patient and involves the use of lights and sirens. Using lights and sirens increases the risk of injury to EMS and patients and should only be used in critical situations. Consider separating these and defining them - the mews score is a great way to define who needs emergent transfer.
Vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC)	Vaginal delivery in a person who has given birth via cesarean section in a previous pregnancy.
Vicarious liability	Legal concept that assigns liability to an individual who did not actually cause the harm, but who has a specific superior legal relationship to the person who did cause the harm. For instance, a hospital is responsible for its doctors' actions.
Lay Midwife	Derogatory/slang term used to refer to a Direct Entry Midwife and/or any Community Midwife
Non-urgent transfer	The most common type of transfer from home or birth center to hospital. Does not usually involve EMS. Birthing persons or newborns are transported via private car to the hospital.