

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES – OTHER TYPES OF CARE OR SERVICE LISTED IN SECTION 1905(a) OF THE ACT THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THE PLAN ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

CITATION

42 CFR Section 1396d(1)(3)B

**Free-Standing Birthing Centers
Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rates**

Effective for dates of service on or after November 20, 2015, a free-standing birthing center (FSBC) shall be reimbursed a one-time payment for labor and delivery services at a rate equal to 90 percent of the average per diem rates of surrounding hospitals* providing the same services.

FSBCs shall be reimbursed for labor and low-risk delivery services provided to Medicaid eligible pregnant women by an obstetrician, family practitioner, certified nurse midwife, or licensed midwife. FSBC services are appropriate when a normal, uncomplicated labor and birth is anticipated.

Attending physicians shall be reimbursed for birthing services according to the published fee schedule rate for physician services rendered in the Professional Services program.

Certified nurse midwives providing birthing services within a FSBC shall be reimbursed at 95 percent of the published fee schedule rate for physician services rendered in the Professional Services program.

Licensed midwives providing birthing services within a FSBC shall be reimbursed at 95 percent of the published fee schedule rate for physician services in the Professional Services program.

A licensed midwife providing birthing services within the FSBC 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 Examiners.

State developed fee schedule rates are the same for both public and private providers of birthing center services. The agency's fee schedule rates were set as of May 12, 2023, are effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published on the agency's website at www.lamedicaid.com

*Surrounding Hospital

- A. Urban areas: located within a 20-mile radius of the FSBC.
- B. Rural areas: located within a 30-mile radius of the FSBC.