

Welcome to the first stop on your journey to accreditation! The *CABC Indicators of Compliance with Standards for Birth Centers* document is the cornerstone of CABC accreditation. A birth center must be in **substantial** compliance with **each** Standard in order to become accredited. The purpose of this training module is to educate you on how to navigate the document and get the most out of it.

With over 100 pages, the *CABC Indicators* can feel intimidating! We designed this training module to break down the instructions and resources found in the document. Once you understand the best way to navigate the Indicators, you can better determine if your birth center is in compliance with the Standards. The quiz at the end will provide feedback on your learning.

How to contact CABC

If you need assistance or have questions, please reach out to CABC Administrative Staff Members using the following contact information:



Michele DeAngelo, Executive Director

Admin@BirthCenterAccreditation.org

(877) 241-0262 ext. 700

Overview

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Who Should Use the CABC Indicators?

The *CABC Indicators* document is considered the blueprint of accreditation. As part of continuous quality improvement, CABC periodically reviews and updates the Indicators in response to the best available evidence on maternity and newborn care encompassing the antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum and newborn time frames; as well as best business practices, regulatory changes, questions from birth centers and Accreditation Specialists, and commonly occurring issues identified during accreditation reviews. Therefore, it is important to obtain the document by registering and downloading it from the CABC website. Registering ensures updates will be communicated to you in a timely manner.

The Indicators serve as a **guide** to the accreditation process.

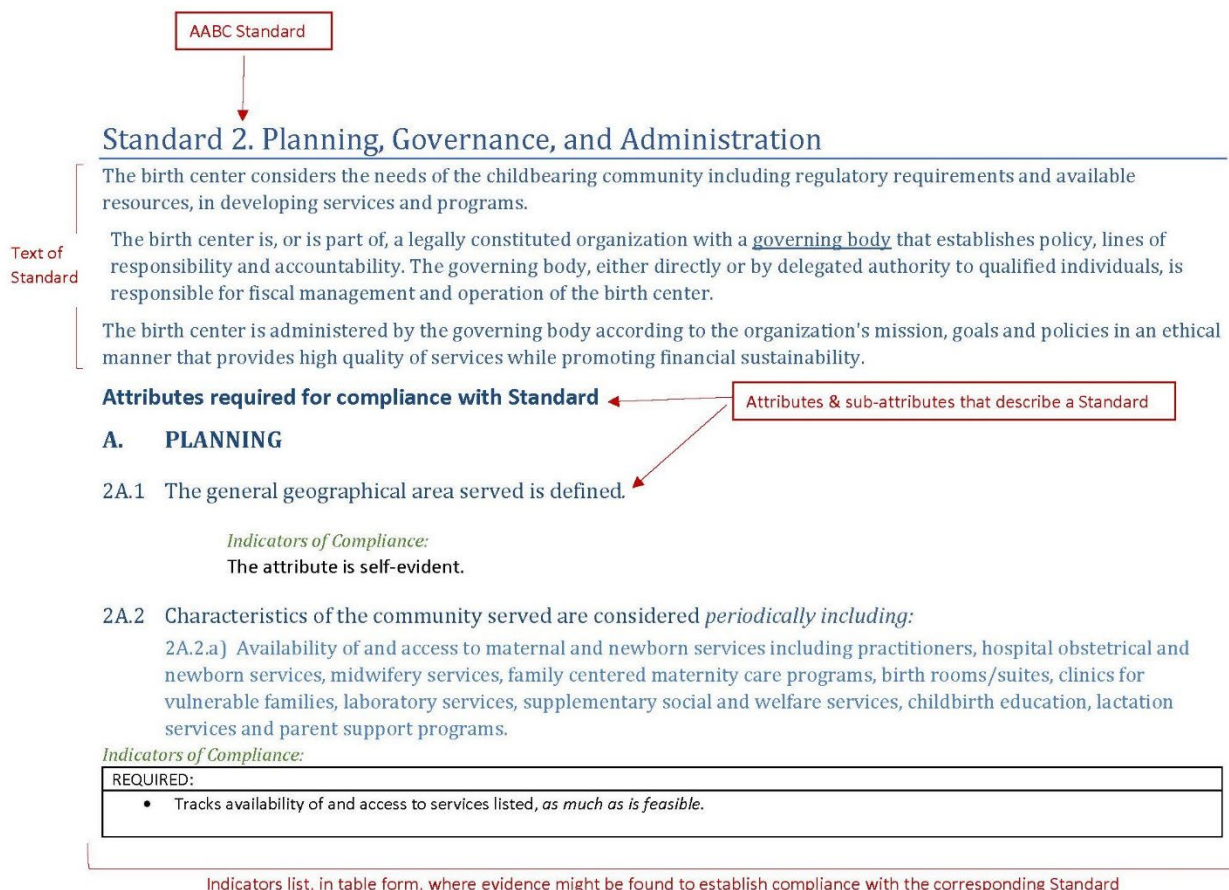
The Indicators are meant to serve as a guide in the accreditation process. They do not replace professional training or credentials. Most people, including birth centers seeking accreditation, can legally use the document by agreeing to the End User License Agreement. Download the Indicators and learn about legal use of the document [here](#):

How the Document is Organized

The *CABC Indicators* document is organized by **AABC Standard** (see diagram on the next page). Under each Standard you will find the following:

- **Text** explaining the Standard.
- **Attributes** describing the Standard. Some Standards may also have **sub-attributes**.
- **Indicators**
 - Appear in a table after each Standard.
 - Could be required or best practice for accreditation.
 - List where evidence might be found to demonstrate compliance with the Standard.

When a birth center goes through the accreditation process, you will be asked to submit evidence of compliance with each Standard.



Critical Indicators

CABC has highlighted certain Indicators in **red** because these issues are paramount to the safety of mothers and babies. If the birth center is not in compliance with an Indicator highlighted in **red**, deemed Critical Indicators, **accreditation will be automatically denied or deferred**. For instance:

3.6.b. Current licensure with independent verification

Indicators of Compliance:

REQUIRED:

- Current copies of certifications by AMCB, NARM or relevant certification board based on licensee's designation.

3.6.b BEST PRACTICE INDICATORS

- Evidence of direct verification of licensure on file, if available in the state

In the example above, a birth center staff member **with a required certification, such as NARM, must provide evidence of such certification by having a copy in their personnel file.** IF a birth center cannot provide evidence, accreditation will automatically be deferred or denied, even if all other Standards are met.

If a birth center is not in compliance with a **Critical Indicator**, accreditation will be automatically deferred or denied.

At times, the “critical” part of an Indicator is not something a birth center does, but rather something it doesn’t engage in. For example, attribute 1C.1.i describes intrapartum interventions not appropriate in a birth center. The Indicators table lists a number of unacceptable practices. For

example, **Nonpharmacologic or mechanical induction or augmentation of labor without an evidence-based clinical indication and evidence of use of medications that are not considered appropriate for use in community birth setting** are critical. If evidence of these are found, accreditation will be deferred or denied.

While these critical Indicators are extremely important, CABC believes that birth centers who wish to achieve excellence will review and comply with all Indicators.

Consistent Use of Terms

Because CABC is dedicated exclusively to the quality of the operation and services of **all** birth centers, regardless of ownership, primary care provider, location, or population served, umbrella terms are defined in a detailed **Glossary** at the end of the document. Understanding of these terms facilitates the accreditation process in diverse circumstances. For example, here is how “All Staff” is defined in the CABC Indicators:

All Staff

In the CABC Indicators, *All Staff* includes birth center Employees, Contracted Staff and Credentialed Providers, as these terms are defined in this glossary.

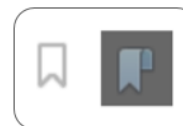
See Comparison: [Role Subsets of All Staff in the CABC Indicators](#)

See Comparison: [Professional Roles Not Included in All Staff in the CABC Indicators](#)

Navigating Through

The CABC Indicators is in PDF format, and can be opened using a PDF reader, such as Adobe Reader. The document does not need to be read sequentially! There are several ways to easily navigate or search by topic:

- In the **Contents**: click any line in the table of contents and you will be brought to the corresponding Standard/section.
- **PDF Bookmark**: Select the bookmark icon in your PDF reader to view a list of the headings.
- **PDF Search** function:
- To search the **Endnotes**: either use the PDF Search feature to search the roman numeral endnote or use the PDF Bookmark heading for endnotes.
- To search linked words in the **Glossary of Terms**: a word that appears in the glossary will have a hyperlink (underlined, blue font color). Simply click on the word and it will navigate to the glossary.



On a PC, use: CTRL+F

On a Mac, use: ⌘+F

Changes from the Last Edition

Already studied the previous edition of the CABC Indicators? Perhaps your birth center recently went through accreditation and was found to be in compliance. These are two scenarios in which you may be primarily interested in updates to the current edition. CABC dedicates a section to this called Changes from the Last Edition to This Edition. Changes could include anything from typographical errors to additions or deletions. All edits are highlighted in yellow throughout the document, and in list form on page 5.

Changes from the Last Edition to This Edition

The changes to the Indicators in this edition range from fixed typographical errors, deletions to reduce redundancy and additions to address evidence-based practice. All sections were affected.

- When CABC Indicators simply repeated what was in the Attribute, they were deleted.
- CABC Indicators were scrutinized to distinguish REQUIRED Indicators from **Best Practices**. Many CABC Indicators have been moved into a “**BEST PRACTICE**” list and are not required in order to be CABC-accredited. CABC will not review these for compliance during the survey visit; however, birth centers are encouraged to review All **Best Practice Indicators** and implement them into their practice. The CABC Accreditation Specialist who conducts the survey visit will discuss any of the Best Practice Indicators, why they are considered Best Practices, and strategies for implementing them in the birth center.

Areas that had a change or addition can be found under these Standards:

- [1C.1.c](#) – Criteria for admission
- [1C.1.e](#) – Risk assessment
- [1C.1.f](#) – Perinatal care
- [1C.1.i](#) – Intrapartum care
- [1C.1.k](#) – Postpartum and newborn care
- [5.1.f](#) – Consultation and referral
- [7A.1.a](#) – Ongoing prenatal assessment and birth center eligibility

Do you understand how to navigate the CABC Indicators?
Take the quiz [here](#).