



CABC News Brief

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Are Your Policies & Procedures for Maternal & Newborn Vital Signs Consistent with CABC Indicators?

When doing the annual review of your birth center's or alongside midwifery unit's policies and procedures, it is important to compare them to the vital sign requirements in the CABC Indicators. The Indicators describe the minimum standard for vital signs, although your birth center may decide to use more stringent criteria. In that case, during your site visit, you will be held to the birth center's P&P for vital signs.

Intrapartum Vital Signs

- Maternal vital signs as per P&P or at a minimum of:
 - On admission, a full set of vital signs, including blood pressure, pulse and temperature
 - At a minimum, full set of vital signs every 4-hours
 - Increased frequency in the presence of risk factors (ROM, borderline BP, fever, etc)
- FHTs as per P&P or at a minimum of:
 - On admission in labor
 - Ongoing FHTs as per ACNM and AWHONN guidelines for intermittent auscultation:
 - Active labor - every 30-minutes
 - 2nd stage with pushing - every 5-15 minutes
- Increased frequency in presence of risk factors (concerning FHTs [bradycardia, tachycardia, decelerations], prolonged 1st or 2nd stage, hyperactive contraction pattern)
- On admission and periodically during active labor:
 - FHT baseline
 - Presence or absence of FHT accelerations or decelerations during or after contractions
 - Maternal pulse documented each time FHT baseline is assessed AND with any variation/abnormality in FHTs (decelerations, bradycardia, tachycardia)



Postpartum Maternal Vital Signs

- As per P&P or at a minimum of:
 - Full set of vital signs - blood pressure, pulse, temperature
 - One set within 1-hour after birth
 - One ongoing set
 - One set prior to discharge
- When vital signs or maternal physical assessment are outside normal range, there is

expanded assessment and a plan for follow-up

- Increased frequency of assessment and vital signs in presence of risk factors (syncope, PPH, fever, severe laceration, abnormal vital signs)

Newborn Vital Signs

- As per P&P or at a minimum of:
 - Full set of vital signs - apical pulse, respiratory rate, and temperature
 - One set within 1-hour after birth
 - One ongoing set
 - One set prior to discharge
- Vital signs (and other assessment) more frequently in presence of abnormal findings or risk factors (prolonged ROM, prolonged labor, excess molding, poor nursing, etc)



UNESCO Adds Midwifery to *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*

Each year UNESCO adds to their *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*. An intangible cultural heritage (ICH) consists of nonphysical intellectual wealth such as folklore, customs, beliefs, knowledge, skills, and traditions. In December 2023, UNESCO approved a joint application by Colombia, Cyprus, Germany, Kyrgyz Republic, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Slovenia, and Togo adding midwifery to the list.

UNESCO notes "Midwives are companions and supporters of pregnant women and their families before, during and after birth. Throughout the course of a pregnancy, midwives make home visits, provide guidance and care, and facilitate birth preparation and capacity-building classes. They contribute to the protection of fundamental human rights by transmitting their knowledge to mothers and families. Midwifery is based on evidence-based practices and traditional knowledge, skills and techniques. It varies according to the social, cultural and natural contexts of different communities and countries, and sometimes includes knowledge of traditional medicine and of medicinal plants and herbs. Midwifery also entails specific cultural practices, vocabulary, celebrations and rituals. The related skills and knowledge have been safeguarded, developed and passed on by practising communities for generations, especially within networks of women. Traditional knowledge of midwifery is accumulated through direct experience, observation and interaction with the human body. It is transmitted through oral instruction, observation, participation and peer exchange. In





many countries, the practice of midwifery also requires certification, and the related knowledge and skills are transmitted through formal education such as academic learning based on curricula, some of which align with the standards established by the International Confederation of Midwives."

[See video about midwifery from UNESCO](#)



Achievement Spotlight

December 2023 & January 2024

Great Work Achieving Your 1st Accreditation!

Mount Vernon Birth Center Mount Vernon, WA

CHOICES: Center for Reproductive Health Memphis, TN

Congratulations on Your Re-Accreditation!

Lifecycle WomanCare Bryn Mawr, PA

Reading Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Wellness
Reading, PA

Now In-Process

Full Circle Birth Center Kasson, MN

Cocoon Wellenss & Birth Waverly, NY

Is there someone at your CABC-Accredited or In-Process Freestanding Birth Center or Alongside Midwifery Unit who would like to receive the newsletter?

Contact Michele at Admin@BirthCenterAccreditation.org

Not one of the above?

Everyone can learn about CABC accreditation and activities on the [CABC website](#) or by following us on [Facebook](#).