

**WAC 246-329-010 Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases will have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Administration of drugs" means an act in which a single dose of a prescribed drug or biological is given to a client by an authorized person in accordance with all laws and rules governing these acts. The complete act of administration entails removing an individual dose from a previously dispensed, properly labeled container, including a unit dose container, verifying it with the orders of a practitioner who is legally authorized to prescribe, giving the individual dose to the proper client and properly recording the time and dose given.

(2) "Applicant" means a person seeking licensure as a childbirth center under this chapter.

(3) "Authenticated or authentication" means authorization of a written entry in a record by means of a signature which shall include, minimally, first initial, last name, and title or unique identifier verifying accuracy of information.

(4) "Bathing facility" means a bathtub or shower.

(5) "Birthing center" or "childbirth center" or "birth center" means any health facility, not part of a hospital or in a hospital, that provides facilities and clinical staff to support a birth service to low risk maternity clients. This chapter does not apply to any hospital approved by the American College of Surgeons, American Osteopathic Association, or its successor.

(6) "Birthing room" means a room designed, equipped, and arranged to provide for the care of a woman and newborn and to accommodate her support person or persons during the process of vaginal childbirth, (the three stages of labor and recovery of a woman and newborn).

(7) "Birth service" means the prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care provided for low-risk maternity clients, including newborn care during transition and stabilization.

(8) "Client" means a woman, fetus, and newborn receiving care and services provided by a birth center during pregnancy and childbirth and recovery.

(9) "Clinical staff" means physicians and midwives, including contractors, appointed by the governing body to practice within the birth center and governed by rules and policies and procedures approved by the governing body.

(10) "Consultation" means the process used by the clinical staff of a childbirth center who maintain primary management responsibilities for the client's care to seek the opinion of a licensed physician on clinical issues that are client specific. The physician consulted must be qualified by training and experience in specific client need for which consultation is sought. Consultation, appropriate to client need, must be available during all times birth services are provided in a childbirth center.

(11) "Contractor" means an individual who has a written contract with a birth center licensee to provide birth services. The written contract must be approved by the governing body, including appointment of clinical privileges by the governing body. Birth services provided by contractors in licensed birth centers must meet requirements of this chapter, unless otherwise noted.

(12) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

(13) "Emergency" means a medical emergency or injury requiring immediate medical or surgical intervention to prevent death or disability.

(14) "Emergency transfer" means the transfer of a maternal client or newborn in an emergent situation to a facility that can manage obstetrical and neonatal emergencies, including the ability to perform cesarean delivery.

(15) "Governing body" means the person or persons responsible for establishing and approving the purposes and policies and procedures of the childbirth center.

(16) "Hospital" means any institution, place, building, or agency which provides accommodations, facilities, and services over a continuous period of twenty-four hours or more, for observation, diagnosis, or care, of two or more individuals not related to the operator or suffering from any other condition which obstetrical, medical, or surgical services would be appropriate for care or diagnosis. "Hospital" as used in this definition includes facilities licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW. "Hospital" as used in this definition does not include:

(a) Hotels, or similar places furnishing only food and lodging, or simply, domiciliary care;

(b) Clinics or physicians' offices where patients are not regularly kept as bed patients for twenty-four hours or more;

(c) Nursing homes, defined and licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW;

(d) Childbirth centers licensed under this chapter and chapter 18.46 RCW;

(e) Psychiatric hospitals, licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW; or

(f) Any other hospital or institution specifically intended for use and the diagnosis and care of those suffering from mental illness, mental retardation, convulsive disorders, or other abnormal mental conditions. Nothing in this definition shall be construed as authorizing the supervision, regulation, or control of the remedial care or treatment of residents or patients in any hospital conducted for those who rely primarily upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with creed or tenets of any well-recognized church or religious denomination.

(17) "Lavatory" means a plumbing fixture designed and equipped with a handwash device.

(18) "Low-risk maternal client" means an individual who:

(a) Is at term gestation, in general good health with uncomplicated prenatal course and participating in ongoing prenatal care, and prospects for a normal uncomplicated birth as defined by reasonable and generally accepted criteria of maternal and fetal health;

(b) Has no previous major uterine wall surgery, cesarean section, or obstetrical complications likely to recur;

(c) Has no significant signs or symptoms of anemia, active herpes genitalia, placenta praevia, known noncephalic presentation during active labor, pregnancy-induced hypertension, persistent polyhydramnios or persistent oligohydramnios, abruptio placenta, chorioamnionitis, known multiple gestation, intrauterine growth restriction, or substance abuse;

(d) Is in progressive labor; and

(e) Is appropriate for a setting where methods of anesthesia are limited.

(19) "Midwife" means a person licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, or chapter 18.50 RCW, Midwifery.

(20) "New construction" means any of the following:

(a) New buildings to be used as a birth center;

(b) Addition or additions to an existing building or buildings to be used as a childbirth center;

(c) Conversion of existing buildings or portions thereof for use as a childbirth center;

(d) Alterations or modifications other than minor alterations. "Minor alterations" means any structural or physical modification within an existing birth center which does not change the approved use of a room or an area. Minor alterations performed under this definition do not require prior review of the department; however, this does not constitute a release from other applicable requirements;

(e) Changes in the approved use of rooms or areas of the birth center.

(21) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, or joint stock association, and the legal successor thereof.

(22) "Personnel" means individuals employed by the birth center, contractors of the birth center, students and volunteers.

(23) "Physician" means a person licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, "Physicians," and rules adopted under chapter 246-919 WAC or chapter 18.57 RCW, "Osteopathy—Osteopathic medicine and surgery," and rules adopted under chapter 246-853 WAC.

(24) "Referral" means the process by which the clinical staff of a childbirth center directs the client to a physician for management of a particular problem or aspect of the client's care.

(25) "Registered nurse" means a person licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, and rules adopted under chapter 246-840 WAC.

(26) "Recovery" means that period or duration of time starting at birth and ending with discharge of a client from the birth center or the period of time between the birth and the time a client leaves the premises of the birth center.

(27) "Shall" means compliance is mandatory.

(28) "Support person" means the individual or individuals selected or chosen by a maternal client to provide emotional support and to assist her during the process of labor and childbirth.

(29) "Toilet" means a room containing at least one water closet.

(30) "Transfer of care" means the process by which the clinical staff of a childbirth center directs the client or newborn to a physician or other licensed health care provider for complete management of client's care. Transfer of care to an appropriate obstetrical department, patient care area or hospital, or physician(s) qualified in obstetrics or newborn/pediatric care respectively with admitting privileges to a hospital must be available twenty-four hours per day.

(31) "Volunteer" means an individual who is an unpaid worker in the birth center, other than a support person.

(32) "Water closet" means a plumbing fixture for defecation fitted with a seat and a device for flushing the bowl of the fixture with water.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.46 RCW and RCW 43.70.040. WSR 07-07-075, § 246-329-010, filed 3/16/07, effective 4/16/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.46.060. WSR 92-02-018 (Order 224), § 246-329-010, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-329-010, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.46.060. WSR 86-04-031 (Order 2338), § 248-29-010, filed 1/29/86. Statutory Author-

ity: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 80-05-099 (Order 197), § 248-29-010, filed  
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