

## **111-2-2-.25 Specific Review Considerations for Freestanding Birthing Centers.**

(1) A Certificate-of-Need for a proposed new freestanding birthing center will be issued only if the services to be provided are consistent with the philosophy of family-centered care as defined in the State Health Plan and if there is evidence of safe and quality service at a charge lower than charges for deliveries provided on an inpatient basis.

(2) The applicant must agree to meet the rules and regulations for the development and operation of birthing centers required by the Standards and licensure Section of the Department of Human Resources.

(3) The applicant must provide evidence that the birthing center will function as part of the established regionalized system of perinatal care. This includes arrangements for referral of those clients who develop complications that make them ineligible for delivery at the birthing center.

(4) A birthing center must have a written agreement for transfer and emergency services with a backup hospital(s) that provides at least Level II perinatal services. Each physician practicing at the center must have admitting privileges at the backup hospital.

(5) It must be demonstrated that agreements for ambulance service are available. In emergency situations, the center must have the capability of transporting the adult and/or newborn patients to the backup hospital within 30 minutes from initiation of transfer to the arrival at the hospital.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-5A et seq., 31-6 et seq. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Specific Review Considerations for Freestanding Birthing Centers" adopted. F. Dec. 16, 2004; eff. Jan. 5, 2005.