

CABC Issues New Policy Regarding VBACs

In July the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC) released its new policy regarding vaginal birth after cesarean section (VBAC) in accredited birth centers.

The new policy allows for accredited birth centers to do VBACs in the birth center if the mother has already had one or more successful VBACs. The policy also allows for birth centers to seek permission from the CABC to do primary VBACs. Previously (since 2006) the CABC had not allowed VBACs in accredited centers.

This new policy will promote access to care for many VBAC moms in communities where accredited birth centers had ceased doing VBACs to maintain their CABC accreditation.

To learn more about CABC accreditation, please contact the CABC at:

The Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers
1037 Red Tail Road
Audubon, PA 19403
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CommissionABC@aol.com ☆

CABC Policy Regarding Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Section in Accredited Birth Centers

STANDARD V. Quality of services

The Birth Center provides high quality, family-centered, maternal and newborn services to healthy women anticipating an uncomplicated pregnancy, labor, and birth that reflect applicable professional standards for conduct of the practitioners responsible for services rendered and recognize the basic human rights of the childbearing woman and her family.

Since CABC last published its' indicator on VBAC under standard 5 there have been significant updates in professional organization positions on VBAC in birth centers and a new published multi-center research study on the risks of VBAC.

A February 6, 2008 ACOG news release states that ACOG considers hospitals, birth centers within hospital complexes, and freestanding accredited birth centers to be the appropriate places for birth and VBAC. The news release further states that ACOG recognizes the Standards of the American Association of Birth Centers.

On February 1, 2008 The American Association of Birth Centers stated, "Whether or not to do VBACs in your center is a decision for individual providers." It then went on to list 5 criteria birth centers should incorporate into their decisions regarding VBAC.

The February issue of The Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology published results of a multi-center research study on "Labor Outcomes With Increasing Number of Prior Vaginal Births After Cesarean Delivery." The conclusion stated in part, "Women with prior successful VBAC attempts are at low risk for maternal and neonatal complications during subsequent VBAC attempts."

In response to these developments, stated above, CABC will now accept VBAC in accredited centers as appropriate if the following indicators are met and documented:

1. Client has had only one prior cesarean section
2. Client has a documented low transverse incision
3. Ultrasound demonstrates placental location is not anterior and low lying (i.e, not over old scar)
4. Client has signed a VBAC- specific informed consent
5. Client has had one or more successful prior VBACs
6. Client meets all other risk criteria of the birth center

CABC will evaluate on a case- by- case basis centers desiring to do primary or first time VBAC. These centers must document meeting items 1, 2,3,4, and 6 above plus:

1. Center must document ability to transfer care to a facility with 24/7 availability of anesthesia and obstetrical attendance.
2. Center must be located in close proximity to the transfer facility.

CABC still recognizes that VBAC in Accredited Centers can occur under Standard 9. The center would need to demonstrate compliance with the standard and its' indicators.

REFERENCES

- ACOG News Release 2-6-2008 ACOG Office of Communications 202-484-3321. communications@acog.org
- American Association of Birth Centers 2-01-2008 Statement regarding feasibility of another VBAC study. www.BirthCenters.org
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (2008;285-291) Labor Outcomes With Increasing Number of Prior Vaginal Births After Cesarean Delivery.

CABC Offers Workshops at the Birth Institute in Tucson

The CABC will offer two pre-conference workshops at the 2nd Annual AABC Birth Institute: What is Optimal? on September 4, 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.

Excellence Through Accreditation

8:00 AM - 12:30 PM on Thursday, September 4, 2008

This workshop focuses on the flow and time frame of the process, completion of necessary paperwork, the site visit, and how site visitors measure a center's compliance with the AABC Standards for Birth Centers. Registration fee: \$75

Site Visitor Training

1:30 PM - 5:15 PM on Thursday, September 4, 2008

This workshop is for anyone interested in becoming a site visitor for the CABC. All aspects of the accreditation process are thoroughly reviewed. Registration fee: Free

To register for these workshops call AABC at 866-54-BIRTH or visit www.BirthCenters.org. ☆