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Freestanding Birth Centers and Midwife Services for HPSM Members

Dear provider,

Federal law mandates that the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) provides members with access to freestanding birth centers (FBCs), as well as services provided by Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) and Licensed Midwives (LMs).

You can search our Provider Directory for FBCs, CNMs or LMs. If none are available, providers can refer for these services by requesting HPSM approval for an out-of-network provider. If you need help with out-of-network covered services, please contact HPSM Provider Services at **650-616-2106** or PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

What are freestanding birth centers? Freestanding birth centers are health care facilities that offer pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum care, and are usually not affiliated with any hospital. Freestanding birth centers are designed to be a home-like, nonmedical setting for birth, and are often more open to family and friends participating in the birthing process.

What services do Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) and Licensed Midwives (LMs) offer? CNMs and LMs are both authorized to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family planning care for the mother and immediate care of the newborn. The scope of work between CNMs and LMs varies depending on licensing and supervision requirements, as well as the circumstances under which care may be provided.

Read APL 18-022 here:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2018/APL18-022.pdf>

For questions, contact the HPSM Provider Services department at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you,

The Health Plan of San Mateo