

## Birth Center Classifications

**Purpose:** Title 10 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR) Part 711 set forth the architectural, engineering, equipment and construction and other physical environment standards for all health facilities subject to Department of Health oversight pursuant to Public Health Law (PHL) Article 28. The following guidelines establish new classification categories that are designed to provide direction, allowed within our regulations, related to minimum physical environment standards for specific classifications of Article 28 Birthing Centers because of their limited size. The purpose of these guidelines is to promote access to prenatal and obstetric care.

### Regulatory Definitions:

D&TC Birth Center 10 NYCRR Part 754	An Article 28 diagnostic and treatment center certified to provide birthing services, to low-risk patients during pregnancy, labor and delivery who require a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. Services are provided by a physician or licensed midwife to women during a normal and an uncomplicated pregnancy, labor, birth and puerperium. Birth center services are based on a philosophy that promotes a family-centered approach to care and views pregnancy and delivery as a normal physiological process requiring limited technological and pharmacological support. The licensed midwife or physician provides care for the low-risk woman during pregnancy and stays with her during labor from the time of admission to the birth center through the immediate postpartum period providing continuous physical and emotional support, evaluating progress, facilitating family interaction and assisting the woman in labor and delivery. Nurse practitioners may provide prenatal and post-partum care to birthing center patients. They may also provide supportive care during labor and delivery, but the attending provider for birth must be a physician or licensed midwife.
Midwifery Birth Center 10 NYCRR Part 795	Facility licensed pursuant to Article 28 of the Public Health Law that is engaged principally in providing prenatal and obstetric care, and where such services are provided principally by midwives. The facility provides prenatal, childbirth and postpartum care and primary preventive reproductive health care to patients at low risk. Services are provided by a midwife, licensed pursuant to Article 140 of the Education Law, to patients at low risk, during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and who require only a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. Midwifery birth center services are based on a philosophy that promotes a home-like setting and family-centered approach to care and views pregnancy and delivery as a normal physiological process requiring limited technological and pharmacological support. The attending provider for birth must be a licensed midwife.

### Classifications of Birthing Centers:

D&TC Birth Center	Facility as defined in 10 NYCRR Part 754, provides care to low-risk patients during pregnancy, labor and delivery who require a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. Services are provided by a physician or licensed midwife.
Midwifery Birth Center	Facility as defined in 10 NYCRR Part 795, that is engaged principally in providing prenatal and obstetric care, and where such services are provided principally by midwives to patients at low risk, during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and who require only a stay of less than 24 hours after birth. Attending provider for birth must be a licensed midwife.
Limited Birth Center	Facility as defined in 10 NYCRR Part 754 or Part 795, birth center that provides prenatal, childbirth, postpartum care and primary preventative reproductive health care. <b>Limited in size to a maximum of 6 health services rooms</b> (birthing, examination, and consultation) in total; with <b>no more than 3 birthing rooms</b> .

### Patient Room Types – Health Services Rooms:

Birthing Room	A room with a bed and bassinet, for birthing, delivery and post-partum recovery. Capability for emergency equipment and resuscitation.
Examination Room	A room with a bed, stretcher, or examination table for prenatal and post-partum care. Capability for periodic monitoring, equipment, pelvic examinations.
Consultation Room	Used to provide health services (i.e. screenings, family planning services, counseling, educational services, etc.) A consultation room cannot be used to provide services that require a physical examination room.

Birth Center Classification		D&TC Birth Center	Midwifery Birth Center	Limited Birth Center
<b>Compliance Standards</b>				
<b>NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (LSC), 2012 Edition, Business Occupancy</b> Per NFPA, Birth Centers are <i>Business Occupancy</i> if they are occupied by fewer than 4 patients (not including infants) at any one time, do not provide sleeping accommodations (> 24 hours) for 4 or more occupants, and do not provide treatment procedures that renders 4 or more patients (not including infants) incapable of self-preservation.		•	•	•
<b>Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI), Design and Construction of Outpatient Facilities 2014 or 2018 Edition, Specific Requirements for Birth Centers</b>		•	•	FGI & this Guidance Document
<b>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design</b> Requires all facilities be accessible to the general public, patients, staff, and visitors. Access into the building and throughout the building is required for individuals with mobility disabilities and individuals using wheelchairs.  Applications for new establishment must make every effort to provide accessible accommodations. Proposed renovations within existing facilities should meet ADA standards or demonstrate within their application why they cannot. Full compliance will be considered structurally impracticable only in rare circumstances when the unique characteristics of the building prevent the incorporation of accessibility features. Any portion of the facility that can be made accessible shall be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable.		•	•	•
<b>Number of Birthing Rooms and Exam Rooms Permissible</b>				
Number of birthing rooms and exams rooms shall be determined by the owner and provider to accommodate the projected number of patients served at one time.		•	•	•
Maximum of 3 birthing rooms. Facility cannot exceed 6 health services rooms in total.				•
<b>Room Types</b>				
Reception Area	Located to control and monitor birth center access.	•	•	•
Waiting Area		•	•	
Examination Room	Recommend examination room based on services provided. Where provided, shall meet FGI Section 2.1-3.2: Examination Room.			
Consultation Room	Recommend consultation space based on services provided.			
Birthing Room with Private Bathroom		•	•	•
Nurse Station or Nurse Touchdown Space		•	•	•
Medication Safety Zone		•	•	•

Ice Making Equipment	Equipment permitted in the clean workroom or in the nourishment area.	•	•	•
Nourishment Area or Room	Recommend nourishment area based on services provided. Where provided, shall meet FGI Section 2.1-3.8.9: Nourishment Area.			
Clean Workroom or Clean Work Area		•	•	•
Soiled Workroom or Soiled Holding Area		•	•	•
Clean Linen Storage		•	•	•
Emergency Equipment Storage, Wheelchair Storage Space		•	•	•
Environmental Services Room		•	•	•
Staff Lounge	Multi-use areas shall be permitted to serve as the staff lounge. Provisions for staff personal storage is required.	•	•	
Staff Personal Storage	Securable lockers, closets and/or cabinet compartments.	•	•	•
Staff Toilet Room		•	•	
Shared Staff/Public Toilet	Must be ADA compliant.	•	•	•
Administrative Areas	May be combined with nurse station.	•	•	
Medical Records	Secure storage for paper or electronic records.	•	•	•
Multipurpose Room	Birth Centers that provide health education; dedicated education/library facilities shall be provide.			
Parking space and designated space for emergency transfer vehicle.		•	•	•
<b>Building Systems, Architectural Details &amp; Finishes</b>				
<b>Lighting:</b> Birthing room lighting shall provide at least 70 foot-candles in the delivery and newborn care area(s) and may be met with a combination of fixed and portable lighting.		•	•	•
<b>Electrical Receptacles:</b> 8 min. in birthing room; 4 convenient to head of the mother's bed.		•	•	
<b>Medical Gas Outlets:</b> Birthing rooms shall have a minimum one outlet for oxygen, and one outlet for vacuum. Use of portable equipment is permitted.		•	•	•
<b>Corridors:</b> Min. 3'-0" for exit access corridors and passageways.		•	•	•
<b>Corridors:</b> Min. 3'-8" for exit access corridors and passageways for facilities >50 occupants.		•	•	
<b>Elevators:</b> Where elevators are provided, elevator cars shall have minimum inside dimensions of 5'-8" wide by 7'-6" deep.		•	•	•
<b>HVAC:</b> Demonstrate heat and ventilation is provided for all occupiable spaces.		•	•	•
<b>HVAC:</b> Per NYS Mechanical Code, Business Occupancy.		•	•	
<b>Security:</b> Assessment of active and passive security system(s), and implementation.		•	•	•
<b>Ceiling Height:</b> 7'-10" minimum, 7'-6" minimum in corridors.		•	•	•

<b>Exam Room Requirements</b>			
<b>Area:</b> 80 sq. ft., 72 sq. ft. minimum will be considered for existing construction if the applicant can demonstrate clearances and handicap accessibility.	•	•	•
<b>Clearance:</b> 2'-8" on 2 sides of table; side and head or foot area, exam table may be against the wall.	•	•	•
<b>Handwashing Sink:</b> Located within exam room.	•	•	•
<b>Finishes:</b> Shall be smooth surface and selected to facilitate cleaning.	•	•	•
<b>Birthing Room Requirements</b>			
<b>Area:</b> 200 sq. ft. minimum; includes area for newborn care.	•	•	
<b>Area:</b> 120 sq. ft. minimum will be considered for existing construction if the applicant can demonstrate clearances, space for newborn care and handicap accessibility.	•	•	•
<b>Clearance:</b> A birthing room shall have a minimum clear dimension of 12 ft. 2'-8" on both sides of bed and foot area.	•	•	•
<b>Bathroom:</b> Private, direct access from birthing room with hand-washing station, toilet, and tub or shower. 10% but no fewer than 1 must have accessible fixtures and clearances. All must have accessible doors, door swing space and turning space.	•	•	•
<b>Windows:</b> Each birthing room shall have a window for access to natural light and ventilation.	•	•	•
<b>Handwashing Sink:</b> Located within birthing rooms, or private, direct access bathroom sink.	•	•	•
<b>Finishes:</b> Shall be smooth surface and selected to facilitate cleaning.	•	•	•
<b>Environmental Services Rooms</b>			
Environmental Services Rooms are required to have a service or floor mounted sink, hand-washing station or hand sanitation dispenser, and storage for supplies and housekeeping equipment	•	•	•
Environmental services room may be shared with other tenants that are business occupants only (this would exclude ambulatory health care settings, hospitals, and nursing homes) on the same floor. Only cleaning supplies may be stored in this room/area. Must be located near birth center space.			•

The room requirements, systems and details listed above are stipulated by NFPA, FGI and ADA.