

Client Name

Date

Client Address

Client Phone Number

Dear Insurance Person Name,

I am a member of the <INSURANCE PLAN> (member # _____) requesting that you pay for my birth at Best Start Birth Center, a nationally accredited and state licensed Freestanding Birth Center. Please see their website for more information: <http://www.beststartbirthcenter.com>.

Birth centers are homelike facilities, existing within a healthcare system with a program of care designed in the wellness model of pregnancy and birth. Birth centers are guided by principles of prevention, sensitivity, safety, appropriate medical intervention, and cost effectiveness. Birth centers provide family-centered care for healthy women before, during and after normal pregnancy, labor and birth.

Birth centers ensure quality care through established systems such as state licensure, national standards and accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recognizes CABC accredited birth centers as one of the safest settings for birth.

Two national studies show that the quality of care in birth centers has remained consistent. The landmark “National Birth Center Study” published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in December 1989 found that “few innovations in health services promise lower cost, greater availability and a high degree of satisfaction with a comparable degree of safety [... and ...] that modern birth centers can identify women who are at low risk for obstetrical complications and can care for them in a way that provides these benefits.” The “National Birth Center Study II” published in 2013 reinforces the longstanding evidence that midwife-led birth centers provide safe and effective health care for women during pregnancy, labor, and birth. The study looked at 15,574 planned birth center births found a cesarean rate of 6%, as compared to an expected 25% for similarly low-risk women in a hospital setting. This same study estimated that cost savings (based on Medicare payment rates) would amount to more than \$30 million.

Birth centers offer a program of preventative health care that provides safe, cost-effective, high quality care with proven satisfaction. The American Association of Birth Centers is the nation’s most comprehensive resource on birth centers. Learn more about birth centers on the website at www.BirthCenters.org.

With any questions, please feel free to contact Best Start Birth Center at 619-299-0840.

Thank you for your consideration,

Client Name