



Home Birth: Resources for Payers and Policymakers

Disaster Preparedness Planning Must Include Provisions for Birthing in Place



The September 11th terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina, flooding, wildfires and other natural and manmade disasters have increased our attention on preparedness in our health care systems. In this context, increased attention must be directed to the childbirth choices that pregnant women and their families will face in these situations.

Pregnant women might find themselves isolated from health care facilities and providers in a disaster (as we saw in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina). Hospitals overwhelmed by pandemic flu or biologic or chemical attack may not be available or suitable for healthy mothers and infants. **Homes and businesses need to be prepared for a woman to give birth in place.**

The American College of Nurse-Midwives has published a how-to guide entitled Giving Birth in Place. This document is available at http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/giving_birth_in_place.pdf, and can be modified to address a variety of situations.

- ❖ *ACNM urges payers, policymakers and other stakeholders to strategically plan for the issues facing childbearing women and their families in disaster and emergency situations.*