

Cibola General Hospital Incorporated 1016 E. Roosevelt Ave. Grants, NM 87020 Phone: 505-287-4446 Fax: 505-287-5309		Policy # 691041
Title: Doula Care		
Policy First Effective Date: March 11, 2026	Last Revision Date:	Last Review Date:

PURPOSE:

To ensure compliance with the New Mexico Doula Credentialing and Access Act by establishing written policies and procedures authorizing a patient to select a Certified Doula of the patient’s choice to accompany the patient within the facility’s premises during pregnancy, childbirth, and the twelve-month postpartum period.

This policy affirms the facility’s commitment to patient-centered care, informed choice, and support during the perinatal continuum.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

In accordance with New Mexico law, this facility shall:

- Authorize each patient to select a Certified Doula of the patient’s choice.
- Permit the selected doula to accompany the patient within the facility’s premises for purposes of providing doula services during:
 - Pregnancy-related care
 - Labor and childbirth
 - The twelve (12) month postpartum period
- Maintain written policies and procedures governing doula access.
- Provide copies of these policies as required by law.
- Post notice of this policy in required locations.

Doula presence shall not be considered a substitute for licensed medical care, and doulas shall not perform clinical functions.

PROCEDURE:

Patient Right to Select a Doula

- Patients receiving services related to pregnancy, childbirth, or the twelve-month postpartum period may designate one doula of their choice.
- The patient's choice of doula shall be respected without discrimination.
- The doula shall be permitted to accompany the patient in clinical areas consistent with:
 - Infection control standards
 - Patient privacy laws (HIPAA compliance)
 - Emergency safety protocols
 - Reasonable space and safety consideration

Scope of Doula Services Within Facility

Doulas may:

- Provide emotional support
- Offer comfort measures (e.g., positioning, breathing techniques)
- Provide non-clinical informational support
- Advocate for patient preferences (as expressed by the patient)

Doulas may NOT:

- Perform clinical assessments
- Administer medications
- Conduct medical procedures
- Interfere with medical decision-making
- Replace licensed healthcare personnel

Distribution of Written Policy

In compliance with New Mexico law, this facility shall provide a written copy of this policy to:

- Health care providers providing services related to pregnancy, childbirth, or the twelve-month postpartum period.
- Patients receiving pregnancy, childbirth, or postpartum services.
- Any other person, upon request of the patient.

Distribution methods may include:

- Admission packets
- Prenatal education materials
- Patient rights documentation
- Staff policy manuals

- Electronic access via facility intranet or website

Posting Requirements

The facility shall post notice of this policy:

- In each room of a patient admitted for services related to pregnancy, childbirth, or the twelve-month postpartum period.
- On the facility's official website, in a publicly accessible location.
- Posting shall be clear, visible, and written in plain language.

Infection Control and Safety Compliance

All doulas entering the facility must:

- Comply with facility infection prevention and control standards.
- Adhere to hand hygiene and PPE requirements.
- Follow staff direction during emergent situations.
- Comply with security screening and visitor policies.

Failure to comply may result in removal if necessary to protect patient safety.

Non-Discrimination

The facility shall not deny access to a doula based on:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Gender identity
- Disability
- Source of payment

Regulatory Authority

- The facility acknowledges that the New Mexico Health Care Authority may adopt rules pursuant to the Doula Credentialing and Access Act to effectuate the purposes of the Act. This policy shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to remain compliant with any adopted rules.

New Mexico Legislature. (2025). *House Bill 214, 57th Legislature, First Session (N.M. 2025)*.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov>