

Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) Nurse-Midwifery Service



Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) Nurse-Midwifery Service has served the diverse population of Native women living in the metropolitan Phoenix area since 1979. The majority of the women we serve belong to tribes in Arizona and New Mexico, but we also see women from throughout the country and Mexico. We currently have 10 full-time CNMs providing full- scope nurse-midwifery care, and 3

part-time CNMs/ FNP providing ante- partum and well-woman care.

We provide a portion of the prenatal care to about 1900 women annually, but once on AHCCCS many of our women choose to transfer care to hospitals closer to where they live. About 60 births a month occur at PIMC with the CNM service attending 80%. We also have a staff of 7 obstetricians/ gynecologists who are fully supportive of the midwifery model of care. They are in-house 24 hours a day - to consult, collaborate, or transfer care to should the need arise. The availability of our physicians allows our families to have a TOLAC with a 78% success rate in 2011. We encourage natural childbirth using labor balls, hydrotherapy, movement and one-on-one support by family members with the midwifery and nursing staff close by. Anesthesia is available 24 hours a day if epidural anesthesia is requested, or delivery by cesarean section required. Couplet care, with skin-to-skin bonding until after the first breast- feed, is the norm. We are completing the training to be identified as a Baby-Friendly Hospital.

Women's Clinic, located just outside the door to the hospital, is our main site for pre-natal, well-woman, contraceptive, STD screening and colposcopy services. A teen clinic is held on late Tuesday afternoons, so that our pregnant teens or young women requesting contraception

need not miss school to attend appointments. This also gives them the opportunity to see the same provider throughout their pregnancy. The dental clinic has partnered with Women's Clinic to provide quick access for pregnant women with gum disease, caries or toothaches. We are preparing for more centering in pregnancy groups that will be focusing not only on pregnancy concerns, but also issues related to diabetes prevention and obesity. The sessions will be co-facilitated with staff from NIH focusing on healthy food choices, shopping and food preparation, family exercise opportunities and support of breast-feeding. Our CNMs also staff a clinic 20 hours a week on the Salt River / Pima Reservation.

PIMC's Midwifery Service has participated in ACNM's Benchmarking Program for the last 3 years, and in 2010 had one of the lowest NICU admissions for services our size. Two of our CNM staff are Commissioned Corp Officers who have served short-term deployments for disasters or public health projects. Since 1987 we have precepted CNM students from Frontier, Georgetown, Shenandoah, and Midwifery Institute of Philadelphia Universities – hiring three of our current staff from that group! We also precept NP & PA students, medics from the Armed Services who when deployed may be providing emergency pregnancy & childbirth assessment

or care, and Family Practice physicians for IHS who want to refresh their OB skills.

Contact/ Director of Nurse-Midwifery Services: Capt. K. Couch, DNS, CNM, FNP: 602-263-1550