

# PWHC

## Pro Women's Healthcare Centers

[www.pwhcenters.org](http://www.pwhcenters.org)

"Pro Women's Healthcare Centers unites life-affirming medical centers and gives women confidence that, whatever PWHC they go to, they will find exactly what they need, and exactly what they can't get anywhere else."

- Abby Johnson, Board Chairman of the Guiding Star Project

"AAPLOG welcomes the vitally important approach to women's health embodied in the Pro Women's Healthcare Centers. The Hippocratic, woman centered approach to medical management is needed to counter the tremendous push for abortion. We are glad for the tremendous help that the Pro Women's Healthcare Centers will bring to women."

- Donna Harrison, M.D. Exec. Dir. American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG)

For more information, or to request an application to become a PWHC, email us at [info@pwhcenters.org](mailto:info@pwhcenters.org).

# PWHC

## Pro Women's Healthcare Centers

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The mission of the consortium of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers (PWHC) is to partner with women to provide comprehensive, convenient, compassionate, high-quality medical services and access to social services that empower them to care for their health.

This document outlines the high standards for life-affirming care required of each Pro Women's Healthcare Center (PWHC) to be certified as a member of the consortium.



## The Mission Statement Explained:

The mission of the consortium of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers (PWHC) is to partner with women to provide comprehensive, convenient, compassionate, high-quality medical services and access to social services that empower them to care for their health.

### PARTNER WITH WOMEN

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers see the provider-patient relationship as a partnership in which a woman should feel like she is listened to and respected.

#### COMPREHENSIVE

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers seek to help women receive all standard women's health services and more, so that women are cared for in body, mind, and spirit.

#### CONVENIENT

Receiving care at a PWHC should be easily accessible for women, with convenient operating hours and close locations.

#### COMPASSIONATE

Each and every woman is welcomed into Pro Women's Healthcare Centers and served with love.

#### HIGH-QUALITY

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers maintain the highest quality in medicine, manner, and aesthetics.

#### MEDICAL SERVICES

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers need to offer multiple medical services for women, including well-woman care, maternity care, fertility education, and infertility consultation.

### ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

When women need social services, a PWHC should know how to help them, either with on-site personnel, or through a nearby direct referral.

### EMPOWER THEM TO CARE FOR THEIR HEALTH

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers believe in a woman's ability to take ownership of her health, and seek to empower and educate her to aid in her self-care.

# Pro Women's Healthcare Centers

PWHC

## Services and Standards Checklist

	REQUIRED	ENCOURAGED
<b>COMPREHENSIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medical (on-site, see "medical services" list)</li> <li><b>On-site or nearby direct referral:</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Material:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Baby Needs</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Clothing</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Food</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Counseling Services</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Perinatal Hospice and Infant Loss Support</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practical:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Adoption</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Childbirth Classes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Parenting Classes</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Abortion Healing</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Practice That Encourages Spiritual Reflection/ Meditation/ Reconnection to Own Faith</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>On-site or nearby direct referral:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Material:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Specialized Housing – Maternity Homes, Shelters</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Meal Support</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Miscarriage, Burial, and/or Memorial Services</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Men's Program</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Specific Support Groups and/or Counseling – Infertility, Miscarriage, Post-Abortion, Motherhood, Post-Partum Depression, Menopause, Addiction, etc.</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Mentoring and Life Coaching Programs</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practical:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Education – ESL, Resume, Job Hunting, GED</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Childcare – Childcare Options, Short-Term Crisis Nursery</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Pregnancy Centers &amp; Sidewalk Counseling</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Additional Health Specialty Providers – Nutrition, Lactation, Doulas, Chiropractic, Massage, Weight Loss</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Quiet Meditative Space Available</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Prayer with Patients when Appropriate</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Classes on Spiritual Formation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	REQUIRED	ENCOURAGED
<b>CONVENIENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Location:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Services at Buildings in Close Proximity or at the Same Location</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Accessible Location</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local Area:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Referral Network for Other Services</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Opening Hours:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Open At Least One Morning, Evening, or Weekend per Week (for any reason, including classes)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Open 25 Hours + in a Week</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Medical Services During At Least a Third of Open Hours (excluding evening classes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Location:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Options for Public Transportation Known and Presented</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Opening Hours:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Medical Services Outside 9AM-5PM</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Medical Services During a Majority of Open Hours</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Partially-Open Around Standard Holidays</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Listed on Hotlines for Women in Need</li> <li><input type="radio"/> After Hours Call</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>COMPASSIONATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> At Least One Type of Aid for Pregnant Women in Need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sliding Fee Scales</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid Programs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy Center Partnerships (with their financial aid)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social Services Partnerships (with their financial aid)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Language Translation Available</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid for GYN Needs in Addition to OB Needs</li> </ul>
<b>HIGH-QUALITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Truly a Clinic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Providers are Licensed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Following Building Code</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Good Medical Equipment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Centers Welcome Insured and/or Self-pay Women</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Good Bedside Manner</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beautiful, Welcoming Spaces</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> High-Quality Communications, Marketing, Brochures, Advertisements and/or Fundraising Practices (as applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take Insurances</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Self-Pay Program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Expanded Hospitality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-Face Fundraising (as applicable)</li> </ul>

	REQUIRED	ENCOURAGED
<b>MEDICAL SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well-Woman and GYN Care               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Basic Preventive Health Services (blood pressure screening and hopefully immunizations)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Well-Woman Exams (including cervical cancer screening)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> STD Testing and Treatment</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Clinical Breast Exams</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Mammograms (on-site or nearby direct referral)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Depression/Anxiety Screening (treatment or referral)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Alcohol, Tobacco or other Drug Use Screening (treatment or referral)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maternity Care               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Prenatal Care (through delivery or through twenty weeks with conscientious referral for delivery)                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy Tests</li> <li>• Ultrasounds (on-site or nearby direct referral)</li> <li>• Pelvic Exam and Pap Smear</li> <li>• Taking Labs (on-site or nearby direct referral)</li> <li>• Progesterone Supplementation</li> <li>• Miscarriage Support Kits</li> <li>• Abortion Pill Reversal</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="radio"/> Post-Partum Check-Up                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-Partum Depression Screening</li> <li>• General Lactation Follow-up and Specialized Lactation Consultant (on-site or nearby direct referral)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fertility Education and Infertility Consultation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Certified Fertility Awareness Instructor (on-site or nearby direct referral)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Infertility Consultation, Progesterone Supplementation, and Surgical Options</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Like-Minded Medical Referrals               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Pharmacy</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Extended Lab</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Endocrinology/Hormone</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Pediatrics</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Family Medicine</li> <li><input type="radio"/> End-of-Life Care</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Sterilization Reversal</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prenatal Care Through Delivery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Men's Fertility Testing and Supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fertility Awareness Instruction with Multiple Methods (actually on-site, not just through referral)</li> </ul>

## Distinctive Positions of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers within the Pro-Life Movement:

*We are extremely grateful to our predecessors in the pro-life movement, and their admirable history of innovation. The consortium of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers seeks to make its own unique contribution to the overall movement by uniting pro-life comprehensive medical centers under a common standard of excellence. In defining the life-affirming philosophy that a PWHC should adhere to, the following values emerged:*

### **THE NEED FOR MEDICALIZATION AND SOCIAL CARE**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers believe that women need care beyond only a pregnancy test and an ultrasound. To be truly medical, additional services that care for women's emotional and physical needs are fundamental.

### **FERTILITY AWARENESS-BASED METHODS OF FAMILY PLANNING**

Fertility awareness is a fundamental tenant of true women's healthcare and thus a necessary component of these centers. Empowering a woman to understand her body's natural fertility is empowering and effective family planning, with no damage to her health or relationships by artificial contraception.

### **ADHERENCE TO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers desire to maintain high standards and best practices to allow there to be efficiency, proficiency, and effectiveness.

### **COLLABORATION AND HUMILITY**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers desire to work collaboratively to learn from one another and achieve a shared mission. This will necessarily involve a commitment to teamwork, communication, and humility.

### **IMMEDIATE AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES**

Centers in the consortium believe that there are both short-term and long-term solutions to the societal problem of abortion. Both crisis intervention and crisis prevention are important. Pro women policies and actions should happen at local and national levels.

### **ECUMENISM AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers welcome collaboration with many faiths, denominations, and community groups willing to cooperate in pro-life work.

### **APPROACH WITH ABORTION MINDED AND VULNERABLE WOMEN**

Abortion minded and vulnerable women are often in situations that are overwhelming. It is important that all staff and volunteers of a PWHC meet these women where they are, with compassion, and do not immediately address a woman's religion and sexual behavior. A woman in this setting should be welcomed, not preached to. The interaction should be based on the principle of accompaniment – walking with her on whatever journey she is on.

## Distinctive Positions of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers within the Medical World:

*We believe that, in some ways, the medical field's current approach to women's health has drifted from the Hippocratic Oath, and, in certain practices, departed from being medicine that truly helps the women served. Thus, the consortium of Pro Women's Healthcare Centers aims at a recovery of women's health, by committing to:*

### **PRO-LIFE CENTERS**

Abortion is not women's healthcare, because of the damage it causes to women's physical and emotional health and the destruction of unborn life, many of whom are females. Abortion is usually something women turn to when they feel they do not have another choice. This is a tragedy and the opposite of choice and empowerment. Pro Women's Healthcare Centers provide the possibility for women to receive the medical and comprehensive care they need in order to feel motherhood or adoption is plausible for them.

### **LIFE-AFFIRMING MEDICINE**

We believe that life-affirming centers value the lives of men, women, and families – not simply unborn lives.

### **HUMAN WORTH AND DIGNITY**

The worth of a human is not dependent upon circumstances.

### **BIRTH OPTIONS**

All women are respected and supported in their birth choice/experience. Women may choose a birth experience outside those offered by a PWHC and with confidence, they may return to the PWHC in the future.

### **SPIRITUALITY**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers acknowledge the importance of spirituality in overall health.

### **MEDICINE AND HEALING**

Pro Women's Healthcare Centers recognize that a woman's true health, wellness, and healing come from an integrated approach to her body, mind, and soul.