

Nurse Midwives Join Care Team at Soin

New addition improves patient satisfaction



**Steven
Crawford, MD**



**Darla
Baker**



**Andrea
Carr**

An expecting mother's birth team often includes her family, doctors, and nurses—and now, women delivering at Soin Medical Center have the option to include a midwife.

It is all part of a growth strategy for OB/GYN care at Kettering Health Network, says Miriam Cartmell, MS, RNC-OB, NEA-BC, executive director, women's and children's service line. "We were the only hospital system in the surrounding competitive market to not offer nurse midwifery or a formal natural birth program. We found that many women who would otherwise choose a Kettering Health Network provider were going elsewhere, just to see a nurse midwife."

Full-scope care

Two certified nurse midwives have joined the team at Kettering Physician Network Women's Health—Advanced Women's. Darla Baker and Andrea Carr, who both hold Master of Science degrees in nursing and are advanced practice registered nurses with multiple certifications, including nurse midwifery and electronic fetal monitoring.

They provide full-scope obstetric and gynecologic care for women from puberty through menopause, including well-woman gynecologic care, family planning consultations and contraception, and prenatal, pregnancy, and delivery care. Baker and Carr have privileges at Soin Medical Center, where they can provide natural birth experiences as well as pharmacologic pain management.

This marks the first time in many years that patients will be able to choose a Kettering Health Network certified nurse midwife for full-scope OB/GYN care, including deliveries.

A strong patient satisfier

Physicians, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists at Advanced Women's work together to ensure that patients receive well-coordinated, collaborative care for all their obstetric and gynecological needs. Kettering Physician Network OB/GYN **Steven Crawford, MD**, says he and the practice's other physicians quickly embraced the idea of adding nurse midwives.

"The nurse midwife model appeals to a lot of women in our service area who are looking for a more natural approach to labor and delivery, but still want high-tech monitoring and the availability of medical interventions if something unexpected arises," says Dr. Crawford, who had worked successfully with nurse midwives at his previous practice. "Another plus is that nurse midwives can offer longer office visits, which provides more time to teach and build relationships with patients."

Certified nurse midwives follow strict care guidelines established by the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. In fact, according to a 2009 study by ACNM, care from a nurse midwife is associated with lower rates of cesarean birth and regional anesthesia, and higher rates of breastfeeding.

Adding certified nurse midwives to the care team is likely to increase patient satisfaction and contribute to growth, Cartmell says. "Ultimately, we want the nurse midwife model to be wildly successful and replicate it at other network practices," she explains. "We expect this to benefit everyone—providers and, most importantly, the families we serve."

