

Pharmacology

How can I substantiate the pharmacology content I received during my midwifery education? How can I fulfill my pharmacology continuing education requirements for state licensure?

As a requirement for state licensure or prescriptive authority, CNMs/CMs in some states are required to validate the pharmacology content from their basic midwifery education or to demonstrate completion of a certain number of continuing education credits per licensing period that are specific to Pharmacology. To find out about the laws and regulations regarding midwifery practice and requirements for licensure in your state, consult “Summaries of State Laws and Regulations Affecting CNMs/CMs”, which is available to ACNM members only, on line at <http://www.midwife.org/today.cfm>.

This document is designed to delineate the sections of the *Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice* that document the pharmacology-related content which must be demonstrated by all CNMs and CMs, and to provide resources for CNMs/CMs who need to fulfill continuing education requirements for pharmacology content.

ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice

The Core Competencies describe the fundamental knowledge, skills, and behaviors expected of a new practitioner. The focus, as highlighted in the title, is *basic* midwifery practice. The curriculum in all education programs accredited by the ACNM Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) (formerly the ACNM Division of Accreditation) is based on the Core Competencies, which are available at http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/descriptive/Core_Competencies_6_07_3.pdf. The current Core Competencies that relate to pharmacology are found in the following excerpts:

IV. Components of Midwifery Care:

Fundamentals

- G. Pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics

V. Components of Midwifery Care:

The Primary Health care of Women

- A. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

1. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- d. Management strategies and therapeutics to facilitate health and promote healthy behaviors

2. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice of gynecologic care that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- d. Essentials of barrier, hormonal, mechanical, chemical, physiologic, and surgical conception control methods

- e. Management strategies and therapeutics for common gynecologic problems and family planning needs

- f. Management strategies and therapeutics for sexually transmitted infections that includes indicated partner evaluation, treatment, or referral

4. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice in the perimenopausal, postmenopausal and aging periods that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- d. Management strategies and therapeutics for alleviating the common discomforts that may accompany the perimenopausal period

- B. Management of Common Health Problems

1. Applies the knowledge of midwifery practice that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- b. Management strategies and therapeutics for the treatment of common health problems/deviations of essentially healthy women

**VI. Components of Midwifery Care:
The Childbearing Family**

1. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice in the antepartum period that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - k. Management strategies and therapeutics that facilitate healthy pregnancy and outcome
2. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice in the intrapartum period that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - e. Management strategies and therapeutics to facilitate normal labor progress
 - f. Techniques for (i) administration of local anesthesia, (ii) spontaneous vaginal delivery, (iii) third stage management, and (iv) performance and repair of episiotomy and repair of lacerations.
3. Applies knowledge of midwifery practice in the postpartum period that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - d. Management strategies and therapeutic to facilitate a healthy puerperium

Resources for Pharmacology Related Continuing Education Units

- JMWH Home Study Programs: The Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health offers single articles for CEU credit as well as Themed CEU Issues. These are available online at <http://www.jmwh.org/index.cfm>
- ACNM Annual Meeting Workshops and Education Sessions: Each year at the ACNM annual meeting, educational sessions are offered in which CEUs can be earned. Pharmacology related topics are invariably included. Information can be found on our web site, www.midwife.org, on our Annual Meetings page.
- Fitzgerald Health Education Associates provide CEUs specific to Pharmacology for nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses: <http://www.fhea.biz/pharmlive.aspx?BC=home>
- Contemporary Forums presents a Pharmacology conference for Advanced Practice Clinicians in different locations around the country. A certified nurse-midwife is included in the regular course faculty. Visit their web site at <http://contemporaryforums.com/>.
- The Prescriber's Letter is a pharmacology publication that administers on-line CEU programs approved by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and has offerings geared specifically to CNMs: [http://www.prescribersletter.com/\(S\(t3qzbe45yy121rrelsayksaz\)\)/home.aspx?cs=&s=PRL](http://www.prescribersletter.com/(S(t3qzbe45yy121rrelsayksaz))/home.aspx?cs=&s=PRL).
- Additional resources may be available and can be found by conducting an online search of the World Wide Web.

The ACNM "QuickInfo" series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or info@acnm.org.

New – 5/06; 6/30/08