

Home Birth: Resources for Payers and Policymakers

Qualifications for Professional Midwifery Practice



To ensure safe, quality care, individuals providing care to women must be formally educated and appropriately qualified and licensed to practice.

As detailed in ACNM's 2008 Issue Brief, "Midwifery Certification in the United States"¹, a professional midwife in the United States:

- ❖ Has graduated from a formal education program in midwifery accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education;
- ❖ Has evidence of meeting established midwifery competencies within a defined scope of practice that correspond to completed coursework and supervised clinical education;
- ❖ Has successfully completed a national certification examination in midwifery; and
- ❖ Is legally authorized to practice midwifery or nurse-midwifery in one of the 50 states, District of Columbia, or U.S. jurisdictions.

This definition of professional midwifery is consistent with international criteria accepted by the International Confederation of Midwives,² the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetricians (FIGO) and the World Health Organization.

- ❖ *ACNM urges payers and policymakers to adopt policies consistent with these criteria.*

¹ American College of Nurse-Midwives, Midwifery Certification in the United States. Available at http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Midwifery_Certification_in_the_US_1_18_08.pdf. Accessed 08/01, 2008.

² International Confederation of Midwives, Definition of a Midwife. Available at <http://internationalmidwives.org/Portals/5/Documentation/ICM%20Definition%20of%20the%20Midwife%202005.pdf>. Accessed 08/01, 2008.