

## **Certified Nurse-Midwives – Advocates for the Health Care of Women**

### **Who are Certified Nurse-Midwives?**

A certified nurse-midwife (CNM) is an individual educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery. Midwifery practice is the independent management of women's health care, focusing particularly on pregnancy, childbirth, the post partum period, care of the newborn, and the family planning and gynecologic needs of women. The CNM practices within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management, or referral, as indicated by the health status of the woman.

### **What types of services do Certified Nurse-Midwives provide?**

Nurse-midwives provide comprehensive primary care services for women. Services include routine gynecological care through the lifespan, family planning & contraception care, complete pregnancy services from preconception counseling through delivery in a variety of settings as well as initial normal newborn care. Health education is a major focus; the goal is to prevent problems and assist women to develop and maintain healthy habits within the context of their community and culture.

### **Where do Certified Nurse-Midwives practice?**

Certified nurse-midwives may be found practicing in community hospitals as well as tertiary care centers (including their clinics), birth centers, private offices (physician or CNM owned), family planning clinics, health department clinics and health maintenance organizations (HMO). A CNM may also practice as a hospitalist providing in-patient services in triage or labor & delivery. Birth services may be provided in hospitals, birth centers or homes, depending on the type of practice.

### **Certified Nurse-Midwives believe in:**

- The empowering of women, and the importance of their health in terms of the well-being of families, communities and nations.
- The right of all women to a planned, safe, and satisfying birth experience, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, religion, culture or sexual orientation.
- Equitable, ethical, accessible quality health care that promotes healing and health, and respects human dignity, individuality and diversity.
- Encouraging self-determination and active participation from clients as well as the giving of complete and accurate information to help them make informed health care decisions
- The appropriate use of technology and interventions for current or potential health problems.
- A collegial and collaborative relationship with other health care providers that streamlines and optimizes healthcare delivery and patient satisfaction



American College of Nurse Midwives  
Region IV – Chapter 7 - Michigan

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