EXPANSION OF MIDWIFERY PRACTICE AND SKILLS
BEYOND BASIC CORE COMPETENCIES

In order to be eligible to take the examination given by the American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB), formerly known as the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. (ACC), candidates must demonstrate scientific knowledge and clinical skills as outlined in the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice. As science and technology advance, creating changes in health care delivery, certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives will be required to possess knowledge and skills beyond the basic level of midwifery practice as defined by ACNM Core Competencies. Specialization in particular areas may further define an individual's practice.

In order to assure that new technical skills remain within the scope and safety of midwifery practice, ACNM requires that the incorporation of these skills be accomplished in accordance with the current Standards for the Practice of Midwifery. Specifically, Standard VIII outlines a process for incorporating new procedures into practice which includes written documentation.

Standard VIII, Expanded Midwifery Practices, consists of those procedures or components of practice, such as first assisting, use of vacuum extractor, and performing circumcision that may be acquired beyond basic midwifery education.

Additionally, the Standards direct the midwife to consider relevant statutes and regulations that might constrain the midwife from incorporation of a particular procedure. State laws and regulations that may define the scope of practice of a midwife, when they exist, should be reviewed prior to expanding practice. Some state laws explicitly reference ACNM Standards, thereby permitting advanced practice procedures consistent with the guidelines.

*Midwifery as used throughout this document refers to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CM’s) who have been certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) or the American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB), formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. (ACC).

Source: Board of Directors
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