



## **TALKING POINTS for CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM®) LICENSURE**

1. The Certified Midwife (CM®) and Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM®) credentials are recognized as identical in all aspects of midwifery education and practice by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).<sup>1,2,3</sup>
2. Certified Midwives, like Certified Nurse-Midwives, are professionals who have completed educational requirements specified by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) and have obtained identical competencies for board certification in midwifery practice by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).<sup>2</sup>
3. The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC), a group of health care industry officials that establishes national standard data definitions for use in health care claims, likewise recognizes CM® and CNM® as identical credentials. NUCC created an umbrella classification termed “Advanced Practice Midwife” in July 2008 that encompasses both CNMs and CMs.<sup>4</sup>
4. The identical preparation and practice of midwifery by CMs and CNMs has been demonstrated by evaluative research that shows CMs achieve standards of academic excellence and clinical competency equivalent to CNMs.<sup>5,6</sup>
5. There has been a demonstrated decrease in the number of obstetric and primary care providers nationwide. The Certified Midwife is a valuable addition to the maternal health and primary care workforce.<sup>7,8</sup>
6. While midwives work in a variety of communities and settings, they have a long history of caring for the most under-served populations. Certified Midwives continue this tradition and are a valuable resource to vulnerable populations.<sup>9</sup>
7. Education and certification of CMs and CNMs is consistent with international guidelines in other developed countries for the practice of midwifery, accounting for excellent maternal-child health outcomes.<sup>10</sup>
8. The pathway for Certified Midwives to practice has been in existence since 1994.<sup>11</sup> This evidence-based pathway to professional midwifery has been underutilized in the United States

and has promise to improve health care quality, outcomes, and access to care in a cost effective manner.

9. Certified Midwife education attracts talented candidates from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and from many health-related professions, which increases the number of providers committed to maternal-child health.
10. ACME-accredited education for candidates seeking the CM® credential is now available through the graduate program at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate and the graduate distance learning program at Philadelphia University. In a growing number of states, CMs are seeking opportunities to attain licensure and to practice. Making licensure available to CMs will provide access to full scope midwifery care to all women and their families in these communities.
11. The Certified Midwife credential is recognized by ACNM and ACOG, two of the country's primary professional organizations for women's healthcare providers. CMs are board-certified to practice by American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). Extending licensure to these qualified professionals will increase access to quality care.<sup>1,2,3,8</sup>

## REFERENCES

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