

Alaska

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES IN ALASKA

Nurse-Midwifery in Alaska

- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) have been practicing in Alaska since 1969.
- CNMs in Alaska practice in a variety of settings including private and public hospitals, birth centers, private practices with physicians, and independent private practices.

Statistics

- There are approximately 65-70 certified nurse-midwives currently practicing in Alaska.
- There are nurse-midwifery practices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Kotzebue, Kenai/Soldotna, Juneau/Ketchikan/Petersburg, and Wasilla.
- In 2010, Alaska CNMs attended the birth of 1,799 babies. These deliveries account for 21.7% of all vaginal deliveries in the state during that year. In 2011 Alaska CNMs attended the birth of 1,688 babies, or 20.8% of all deliveries.

Education

- There are currently 43 accredited education programs in the United States offering post-baccalaureate certificate and masters degree programs in nurse-midwifery and midwifery. A number of these programs have distance learning education options.
- Although there are no programs in Alaska, there are graduate programs in nurse-midwifery on the Pacific Coast in Washington, Oregon, and California.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

Practice and Reimbursement Issues

- To become certified, the nurse-midwife must complete a course of study in an accredited educational program and pass a rigorous examination. State requirements for nurse-midwifery must also be met.
- Certified nurse-midwives in Alaska are reimbursed by third-party insurance carriers, Medicaid, and Medicare.
- In Alaska, state law provides for the insuring of CNMs. If no professional liability insurance is available through the private sector, the Medical Indemnity Corporation of Alaska must write a policy.
- Alaska CNMs have prescriptive authority.

This information was provided by the midwives of Alaska.

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