



# POSITION STATEMENT

## **HEALTH CARE FOR ALL WOMEN AND FAMILIES**

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) supports the development of a health care system that enables women and their families to receive appropriate care based on need, regardless of their ability to pay, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, or sexual orientation.

ACNM supports legislation that maintains the balance between controlling the cost of health care and ensuring that consumers receive adequate and accessible quality health care. Consumers of health care should have access to the full spectrum of qualified health care professionals and providers, including CNMs/CMs.

ACNM also supports legislation that ensures consumers have the following basic rights of access and choice when participating in a health plan:

- Health plans must have an adequate number and variety of health care providers within reasonable distance of the consumer's home or workplace to ensure that consumers have timely access to the benefits offered by the plan.
- Health plans must ensure direct access to women's health care services in a variety of settings by a variety of health care providers that are accessible, community-based, and culturally competent.
- Health plans must include CNM/CM services as covered benefits. Reimbursement must be equitable among maternity care providers, and payment methods must not encourage unnecessary interventions.
- Health plans must provide comprehensive health care benefits for all women and families.

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Source: Division of Women's Health Policy and Leadership,  
Policy Development and Evaluation Section  
Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors: September 2004  
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Source: Division of Standards and Practice Clinical Documents Section