

ACNM Technical Development Plan

Executive Summary

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) has a long history of supporting data collection among members, but has not established a midwifery data registry. Many factors converge to create new opportunities to leverage data to benefit women, babies, midwives, and our health care system. These factors include increased use of performance measures in maternity care and emerging payment models that reward high-quality, high-value care, among others.

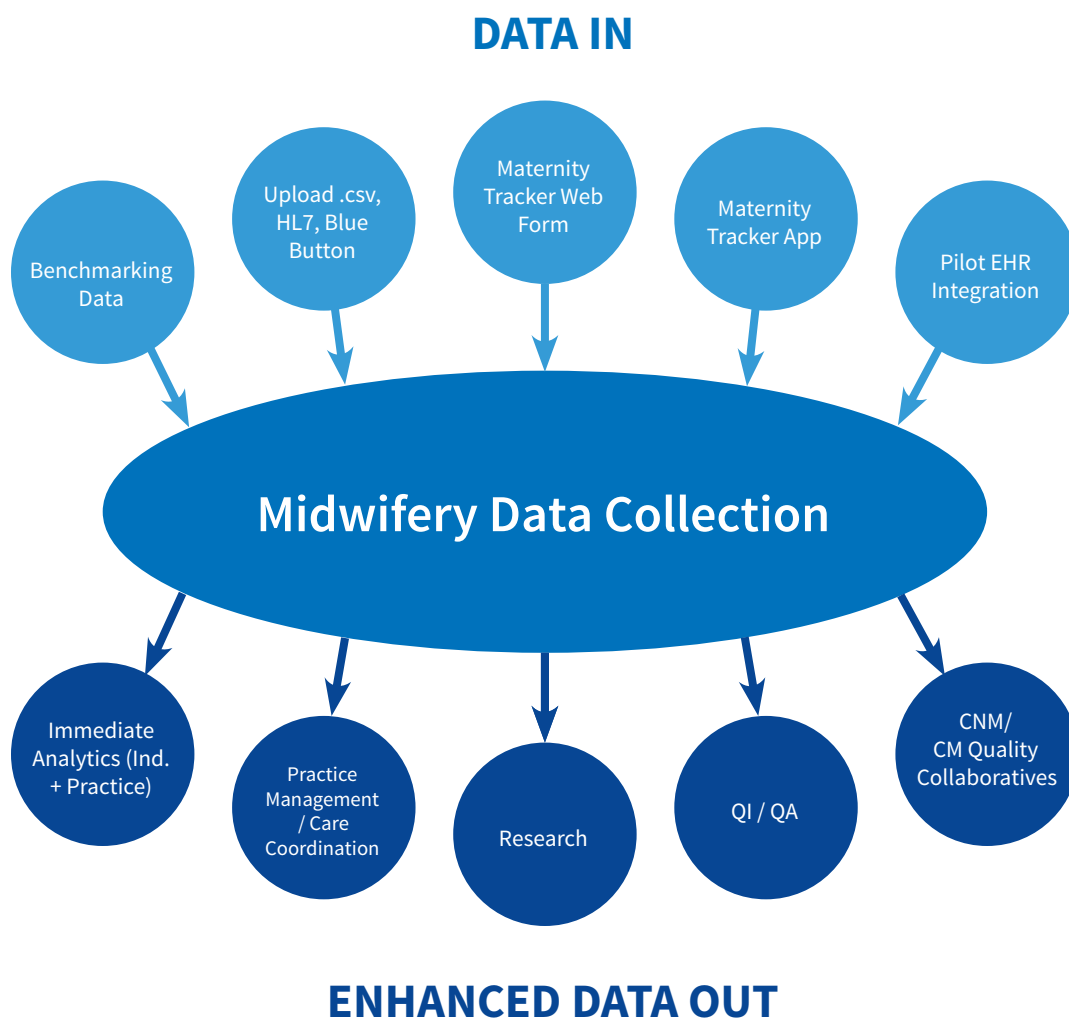
In April 2013, ACNM contracted with Private Practice, Inc. via its new design, development and platform service, Maternity Neighborhood, to develop a Technical Development Strategy for patient-level data collection, storage, and analysis of outcomes by Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs). The three-month project involved key informant interviews with internal and external stakeholders; a survey of the ACNM membership exploring attitudes about and use of health IT and participation in data collection; analysis of relevant research, reports, legislation, and commentaries to identify trends and factors in the broader landscape; and a day-long workshop with ACNM leaders.

Analysis of the outcomes of these activities yielded the following conclusions:

- 1.** The growth of the Benchmarking Project is impressive, and the imperative for quality measurement is building. It's critical that ACNM invest in infrastructure to improve the quality of outcomes reporting by CNMs and CMs to fully leverage the opportunities in our evolving healthcare system..
- 2.** ACNM should approach a midwifery data registry by giving priority to data portability. Data portability is the ability to move data easily into or out of different databases, analytic tools, and registries. Portable data allows for multiple uses of the same data, depending on user needs and system capabilities. Data portability requires common data definitions and technical specifications to optimize security, scalability, and data flow.
- 3.** ACNM should engage in a multi-stakeholder effort to create and disseminate data definitions for “midwifery care in labor,” “midwife-attended birth” and possibly other related concepts.
- 4.** To maximize participation, ACNM should introduce data collection tools that are flexible and user-friendly and glean useful data for care coordination and practice management.
- 5.** ACNM should strive for an open process that invites collaboration and extends the data ecosystem.

The recommended Technology Development Plan includes:

1. An overhaul of the Benchmarking technological infrastructure to enable patient-level data collection
2. New processes for integrating and migrating existing data sets and formats
3. Development of a customized “maternity tracker,” an electronic alternative to a birth log that can be accessed online and from mobile devices, and
4. Modular extension to enable an ecosystem of integrated tools for data entry, exchange, and analysis.



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