

Colposcopy

Colposcopy is an example of an expanded midwifery practice skill. As such, it is not one of the fundamental skills expected of a new practitioner and is not included in the *Core Competencies of Basic Midwifery Practice*. It is, however, a skill which may be acquired by some midwives beyond basic midwifery education. A midwife who wished to expand her/his scope of practice to include colposcopy would utilize the process outlined in Standard VIII of the *Standards for the Practice of Midwifery (formerly Guidelines for the Incorporation of New Procedures into Nurse-Midwifery Practice)* (http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Standards_Practice_Midwifery_2003.pdf).

For more information about expanded midwifery practice in general, please refer to the QuickInfo on Expanded Midwifery Practice (http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Expanded_Practice_3.3.06.pdf).

The most recent data available, based on a survey of ACNM members carried out in 1998, suggest that about 6% of nurse-midwives have expanded their practice to include colposcopy.¹

Nurse-Midwifery evaluation and management of cervical pathology and the colposcopic examination has been addressed in our professional journal.² ACNM sponsored meetings, such as the Annual Meeting, often include continuing education offerings regarding colposcopy. Information on our upcoming Annual Meeting and other education offerings are always available on the ACNM Web site, www.midwife.org.

ACNM does not publish standards for colposcopy education and training, but refers members to the following organizations:

American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP)

ASCCP offers an accredited basic colposcopy course, *Comprehensive Colposcopy*, which is appropriate for midwives seeking a mentorship program, and to expand their practice.

ASCCP and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have jointly produced *Advanced Colposcopy 2002*, a CD-ROM that incorporates the revised Bethesda system. The CD-ROM features case studies, an atlas, and a grading section.

¹ Tarrant E. Nurse-midwives as abortion providers: current clinical practice, facilitating factors, and barriers. 1998; Yale University School of Nursing. MSN

² Worthington S, Ribin M. Nurse-midwifery evaluation and management for cervical pathology and the colposcopic examination. *J Nurse Midwifery** 1993; 38:36S-41S.

*In January 2000, the Journal was renamed, *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*.

Information about courses, the CD-ROM, and other resources is available at www.asccp.org, and from the ASCCP national office:

20 West Washington Street, Suite #1
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: (301) 733-3640
Toll Free: 1-800-787-7227
Fax: (301) 733-5775

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

This association, formerly known as the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health (NANPRH), publishes *Colposcopy Education & Training Standards*. The standards are available at a cost of \$5.00 from the NPWH Web site, www.npwh.org. Or you may contact them at:

503 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: (202) 543-9693
Fax: (202) 543-9858

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The ACNM "QuickInfo" series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at (240) 485-1800 or info@acnm.org.