

## Male Circumcision

---

For midwives who are considering the addition of newborn circumcision to their practice, this *QuickInfo* addresses newborn circumcision as an advanced midwifery practice procedure and provides information about available resources. While the American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists continue to stress that there is no medical indication for circumcision, midwives frequently provide counseling to expectant parents regarding the potential benefits and risks of the procedure. Midwives may arrange for the circumcision to be performed when parents choose circumcision for other than religious reasons and some midwives provide circumcision services.

### Circumcision as an Expanded Midwifery Practice Procedure

Circumcision is not a core competency (e.g., it is not a fundamental skill expected of all midwives), but it is a skill that some CNMs/CMs choose to acquire beyond basic midwifery education. Therefore, a CNM/CM who wishes to expand her/his scope of practice to include circumcision would utilize the process outlined in the Standard VIII of the *Standards for the Practice of Midwifery* (formerly *Guidelines for the Incorporation of New Procedures into Nurse-Midwifery Practice*). Such skills are termed “expanded midwifery practice” and are addressed in general in the *QuickInfo* with that title

([http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Expanded\\_Practice\\_3.3.06.pdf](http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Expanded_Practice_3.3.06.pdf)) . Please refer to that document for more information.

The medical and ethical dilemmas raised by the practice of circumcision have generated debate among midwives that is not unlike the debate that has occurred in other professional groups (1,2). It is clear, however, that a number of midwives are interested in attaining this surgical skill. A paper addressing circumcision was included in a JNM \* Home Study Program on Advanced Midwifery Practice (3) and the topic has been included in ACNM sponsored meetings, such as the Annual Meeting. Information on our upcoming Annual Meeting and other education offerings are always available on the ACNM Web site, [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org).

How many midwives are trained to perform circumcision? The most recent data available, based on a survey of ACNM members carried out in 1998, suggest that about 8% of nurse-midwives have expanded their practice to include circumcision (4).

### Other Resources

#### American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- Circumcision: Information for Parents
- Patient Education for Children, Teens and Parents (English and Spanish versions)  
<http://search.aap.org/AAP/query.html?col=bookstor&qc=bookstor&ql=&qt=circumcision>
- Circumcision Policy Statement (RE9850) (Revised March 1999)  
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/103/3/686>

AAP can be contacted at their National Headquarters: 141 Northwest Point Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098. Telephone: 847/434-4000; Fax: 847/434-8000. Visit their Web site at [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org).

#### American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

- “Deciding about Circumcision” <http://familydoctor.org/042.xml?printxml>. For parents and families (English and Spanish versions)
- Peleg D and Steiner A. The Gomco Circumcision: Common Problems and Solutions from American Family Physician Sept. 15, 1998. <http://www.aafp.org/afp/980915ap/peleg.html>.

AAFP can be contacted at 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Leawood, KS 66211-2672. Telephone: (913) 906-6000. Toll free: 800-274-2237. [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org).

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

“Newborn Circumcision.” [http://sales.acog.com/acb/stores/1/product1.cfm?SID=1&Product\\_ID=74](http://sales.acog.com/acb/stores/1/product1.cfm?SID=1&Product_ID=74). ACOG may be contacted at 409 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington, DC 20090-6920. Telephone 202-638-5577. Web site: [www.acog.org](http://www.acog.org).

### **Billing and Coding**

The following CPT codes may be utilized when billing for newborn circumcision:

- 54150 Circumcision using clamp or other device; newborn
- 54160 Circumcision, surgical excision other than clamp, device or dorsal slit; newborn

If anesthesia is used in the form of a dorsal penile nerve block, then the anesthesia can be coded using 64450 (injection, anesthetic agent; other peripheral nerve or branch) or 00920 (anesthesia for procedures on male external genitalia; not otherwise specified). The modifier -47 (anesthesia by surgeon) indicates that the anesthesia was provided by the same provider who performed the surgical procedure (i.e., the circumcision).

More information can be found in the ACNM handbook, *Getting Paid: Billing, Coding and Payment for Midwifery Services*. ACNM handbooks are available through the Resource Catalog and the ACNM on-line store at <http://www.shopacnm.com/>.

### **References**

1. Milos MF, Macris D. Circumcision. A medical or a human rights issue? [see comments]. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1992; 37:87S-96S.
2. Gelbaum I. Circumcision: to educate, not indoctrinate - a mandate for certified nurse-midwives [see comments]. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1992; 37:97S-113s.
3. Gelbaum I. Circumcision. Refining a traditional surgical technique [see comments]. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1993; 38:18S-30S.
4. Tarrant E. Nurse-midwives as abortion providers: current clinical practice, facilitating factors, and barriers. 1998; Yale University School of Nursing. MSN.

**Please refer to the *QuickInfo*, Expanded Midwifery Practice, for general information about advanced practice procedures ([http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Expanded\\_Practice\\_3.3.06.pdf](http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/Expanded_Practice_3.3.06.pdf)).**

\* As of January 2000, JNM's name has been changed to the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* (JMWH). All ACNM members receive a subscription to the journal as a member benefit. Single issues, both current and back, exist in limited quantities and are offered for sale subject to availability. Reprints/back issues may be obtained by contacting Elsevier Science: 1-888-4ES-INFO (437-4636), 212-633-3680 (fax) or [usinfo-f@elsevier.com](mailto:usinfo-f@elsevier.com).

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](mailto:info@acnm.org). 5/6/03

Revised 2/14/06; Revised 6/08