

## ***CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES IN FLORIDA***

### **Nurse-Midwifery in Florida**

- In the year 2000, Florida nurse-midwives celebrated 30 years of dedicated service. The state's first nurse-midwifery services was established in 1970 through a federally funded program aimed at reducing the high maternal and infant mortality rates in the South. These successful services were located at Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach, University Hospital in Jacksonville, and Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater. In 1994, the *Florida Call to Action on Midwifery and Birth Centers* stated that, "Midwifery should become the standard of care for the normal healthy pregnant woman." This opinion was endorsed by 11 major health care agencies in Florida.

### **Statistics**

- There are more than 540 CNMs with active Florida ARPN licenses.
- There are approximately 293 locations in Florida with nurse-midwives providing comprehensive maternity care and/or well-women care services.
- In 2004, Florida CNMs attended 24,700 births or 17% of Florida births for that year.

### **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.
- There are graduate programs in nurse-midwifery at the University of Florida and at the University of Miami.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

### **Practice and Reimbursement Issues**

- Nurse-Midwives are licensed as Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners by the Florida Department of Health, Board of Nursing. They practice under Chapter 464, F.S., the Nurse Practice Act.
- In 1988, nurse-midwives in Florida received prescriptive writing privileges. They practice under a joint practice protocol which is signed by the nurse-midwife and the physician.
- Under state law, insurance companies operating in Florida must reimburse for nurse-midwifery services. Medicaid reimburses nurse-midwives at 80% of the physician reimbursement rate.

This information was provided by the midwives in Florida.

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