

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES IN WASHINGTON

Nurse-Midwifery in Washington

- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) have been practicing in Washington since 1976 when practices were established in Seattle and Spokane.
- Washington CNMs practice in a variety of settings including hospitals, private physician practices, health maintenance organizations, health departments, private CNM practices, and birth centers.

Statistics

- There are currently 258 CNMs residing in Washington.
- There are 135 nurse-midwifery practice sites in Washington.*
- In 2004, Washington CNMs attended the births of 6,181 babies. This number accounts for 10.4% of the births in Washington 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 is a graduate program in nurse-midwifery at the University of Washington in Seattle.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

Practice and Reimbursement Issues

- Washington CNMs are licensed as advanced registered nurse practitioners. Practice is regulated by WAC 246-839-300 and governed by the State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. A master's degree is required for new licensure.
- All Washington-based third-party payers, including Medicaid, are required by state law to reimburse for nurse-midwifery services. State law also mandates access to a CNM without a primary care provider referral.
- Washington CNMs have had prescription writing authority since 1982.

This information was provided by the midwives of Washington.

*Number may be underestimation given that source only includes ACNM member self-reported info.

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