

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES IN WEST VIRGINIA

Nurse-Midwifery in West Virginia

- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) have been practicing in West Virginia since 1973. The first nurse-midwifery practice was established in Beckley.
- West Virginia CNMs attend births in birth centers, rural hospitals, tertiary care settings and also at home. CNMs also practice and teach at all three major medical centers (Morgantown, Huntington and Charleston) and are directly involved in the education of nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, medical students and residents.

Statistics

- There are currently 62 CNMs practicing in West Virginia. Charleston, Huntington, Beckley and Martinsburg have the greatest number of CNMs.
- There are 69 nurse-midwifery practice sites in West Virginia.
- West Virginia midwives attended the births of 2,499 babies in 2004. This number represents approximately 18% of the total West Virginia 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.
- Although there are no programs in West Virginia, there are graduate programs in nurse-midwifery in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

Practice and Reimbursement Issues

- Nurse-midwifery practice in West Virginia is regulated by the Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.
- CNMs in West Virginia have prescriptive authority.
- The West Virginia Health Care Planning Commission included nurse-midwives in its comprehensive reform plan, saying, "We affirm the value of...nurse-midwives...as primary providers...who are improving access to care."
- Third-party reimbursement is mandated for CNMs in West Virginia, as is Medicaid reimbursement.

This information was provided by the midwives of West Virginia.

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