



# POSITION STATEMENT

## **COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT IN MIDWIFERY PRACTICE FOR MEDICAL, GYNECOLOGICAL AND OBSTETRICAL CONDITIONS**

Midwifery practice is the independent management of women's health care, focusing on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the newborn and the family planning and gynecological needs of women. The certified nurse-midwife (CNM) and certified midwife (CM) practice within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management or referral as indicated by the health status of the client. CNMs and CMs support women as partners in health care choices and practice in accord with the current Standards for the Practice of Nurse-Midwifery, as defined by the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Midwifery care is primarily intended for healthy women. However, when women experience medical, gynecological and/or obstetrical complications, the certified nurse-midwife and certified midwife can continue to be instrumental in their care.

This collaboration (co-management) provides for the following patterns of care for the high risk client:

- Consultation is the process whereby a CNM or CM who maintains primary management responsibility for the woman's care seeks the advice or opinion of a physician or another member of the health care team.
- Collaboration is the process whereby a CNM or CM and physician jointly manage the care of a woman or newborn who has become medically, gynecologically or obstetrically complicated. The scope of collaboration may encompass the physical care of the client, including delivery, by the CNM or CM, according to a mutually agreed-upon plan of care. When the physician must assume a dominant role in the care of the client due to increased risk status, the CNM or CM may continue to participate in physical care, counseling, guidance, teaching and support. Effective communication between the CNM or CM and physician is essential for ongoing collaborative management.
- Referral is the process by which the CNM or CM directs the client to a physician or another health care professional for management of a particular problem or aspect of the client's care.

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\* Midwifery as used throughout this document refers to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) or the American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB), formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. (ACC).

Source: Clinical Practice Committee  
Approved by the Board of Directors, July 27, 1992  
Revised: August 1997