



POSITION STATEMENT

QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN MIDWIFERY CARE

Promotion and evaluation of high quality care are a priority for the midwifery profession, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) strongly recommends that practicing midwives participate in all aspects of quality management: quality assurance, peer review, and quality improvement.

Quality assurance monitors structural, procedural and outcome indicators as they relate to accepted standards. Health care systems should include midwives in an established quality assurance program. Midwives who are not included in an existing program are encouraged to develop their own program.

Peer review is the assessment and evaluation of midwifery practice by other midwives to measure compliance with ACNM standards. In the peer review process, a midwife's practice undergoes scrutiny for the purpose of professional self-regulation. All participants in the peer review process have the opportunity to enhance professional knowledge and skills.

Quality improvement modifies the process for providing care in order to improve outcomes. Modifications are based upon the measurement of parameters such as patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes, population-specific care, appropriate use of technology and resources, and access to care.

* 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).

Replaces: Peer Review (1992)

Source: Quality Management Section, Division of Standards and Practice

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