



POSITION STATEMENT

Health Care for All Individuals and Families

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) maintains that health care is a fundamental human right and supports the development of a health care system that enables individuals and their families to receive appropriate care based on need, regardless of their ability to pay or their socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender identification, or sexual orientation.

ACNM supports legislation that ensures individuals and families have the following basic rights of access and choice when participating in health care plans:

- Health care plans must have an adequate number and variety of health care providers within reasonable distance of the home or workplace to ensure that individuals and families have timely access to the benefits offered by the plan.
- Health care plans must ensure direct access to health care services in a variety of settings by a variety of health care providers that are accessible, community-based, and culturally appropriate.
- Health care plans must include certified nurse-midwife/certified midwife (CNM/CM) services as covered benefits. Reimbursement must be equitable among maternity care providers, and payment methods must not encourage unnecessary interventions.
- Health care plans must provide comprehensive health care benefits for all individuals and families.

ACNM also supports legislation aimed to control the cost of health care and ensure that individuals and families receive adequate and accessible quality health care. All persons should have access to the full spectrum of qualified health care professionals and providers, including CNMs and CMs).

Note. 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 Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB).

Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors September 2004, updated May 2014 & August 2019.
Source: Division of Women's Health Policy and Leadership, Policy Development and Evaluation Section & Division of Standards and Practice Clinical Documents Section