



POSITION STATEMENT

Collaborative Management in Midwifery Practice for Medical, Gynecologic and Obstetric Conditions

Midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives (CNMs®) and certified midwives (CMs®) encompasses a full range of primary health care services for women from adolescence beyond menopause. These services include the independent provision of primary care, gynecologic and family planning services, preconception care, care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Services also include care of the normal newborn during the first 28 days of life, and treatment of male partners for sexually transmitted infections.¹ In the context of providing midwifery care an individual's health status may require the expertise of other members of the health care team. This approach provides for the following patterns of care when additional expertise is necessary to meet the health care needs of the individual:

- 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 healthcare team.
- Collaboration is the process whereby a CNM or CM and physician jointly manage the care of a woman with medical, gynecologic or obstetric complications or a newborn. The scope of collaboration may encompass the physical care of the woman, including birth, by the CNM or CM according to a mutually agreed-upon plan of care. When the physician must assume a lead role 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 whereby the CNM or CM directs the woman to a physician or another healthcare professional for management of a particular condition or aspect of care.

Reference:

1. American College of Nurse-Midwives (2011) Definition of midwifery and scope of practice of certified nurse midwives and certified-midwives

Source: Division of Standards and Practice

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