

TO: ACNM Past Presidents, ACNM Board of Directors (BOD)  
FROM: Holly Powell Kennedy, ACNM President  
DATE: January 7, 2011  
SUBJECT: Preparation for meeting to discuss life-time to time-limited certifications transition

Our teleconference meeting is scheduled January 10, 2011 from 6-8pm EST

**Call-in instructions: Dial 1-866-354-3242; Passcode 2059362268#**

I appreciate all of you taking the time to have this discussion and want to provide an agenda to guide us so that we make most efficient use of our time.

**Purpose:** To provide input from the Past Presidents to the BOD on their thoughts, ideas, and guidance on ACNM's role and leadership in the AMCB decision to transition from lifetime to time-limited certifications.

**Background:** I believe this group has followed the discussions around this topic carefully, but would like everyone to review the following documents before the meeting. All are attached.

- President's message "CNM-Classic:" Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future
- Letter to the Past Presidents dated 2010-12-17
- Letter to FACNM dated 2010-12-07
- Letter to AMCB from BOD dated 2010-12-08

The decision to move to time-limited certification was well researched by AMCB and the BOD is in full agreement that it is the correct action to take in order to protect our credential. I would prefer that we do not spend time on why this decision was taken; it was appropriate and legal and we must now look to the future.

After much exploration and discussion with members, ACNM leaders, AMCB, and legal counsel I believe there are two major areas—both related to our identity as midwives—that deserve our focus and vision.

- A. *Recognition of midwives who have earned certification as a midwife by AMCB (formerly ACC and its precursors) but are no longer in active clinical practice and/or are retired.* Note that I am recommending that we shift this discussion away from what was "taken away from the lifetime certificants," to a recognition that this is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed. Each year, in perpetuity, we will have more midwives newly entering this category. Since we do not have a "degree" that identifies our credential for the public (i.e. as a MD has) we are faced with identity loss when a midwife leaves active practice and does not want (or need) to continue the AMCB Competency Maintenance Program (CMP). This is an ongoing need and it will require a lasting solution. We learned today that AMCB has voted to address this by the following (excerpt from B. Graves email 1/7/11):

*AMCB has completed its legal review regarding the use of a qualifier after our certification marks CNM and CM.*

*The AMCB Board had previously considered whether, if a qualifier was possible, we should add the qualifier for those CNMs and CMs who maintain active certification or use the qualifier only for those who no longer maintain active certification. The title CNM has become well known in the public and health care community to signify an individual who has completed a rigorous education program, passed a psychometrically sound certification exam, and delivers a high standard of care to women and their newborns. With this in mind, the AMCB Board voted to continue to have CNM and CM as the title for those who maintain active certification.*

*I can now announce that CNMs and CMs who no longer have any clinical or professional requirement may use the title CNM(ret) or CM(ret.). Any CNM or CM may contact AMCB by 6/30/2011 to have her name moved to the Retired category. (Recognizing that CNMs and CMs in the Retired and Inactive categories who opt not to or fail to participate in CMP will have substantial educational requirements if they decide to re-enter active certification.) Effective 7/1/2011, a CNM or CM who opts to be considered Retired must be in good standing, with all appropriate fees up to date. B. Graves, President, AMCB.*

- B. *Future vision of communicating who midwives are to the public.* It has been suggested by some that this is a natural crossroads to look at the larger, long-term issue of how we use our credential to communicate what a midwife is, since this change process is already underway. In other words, if ACNM is going to advocate that AMCB amend the CNM trademark then it might make sense to recommend that AMCB change the credential so that all midwives certified through AMCB use the same letters after their name. This might mean that we all use “CM” or we could think of other models, such as Canada or the UK who use “RM” for Registered Midwife” – this might make more sense to our state regulators and could provide the foundation for supporting the licensure of non-nurse midwives in every state. This is a decision that will likely take much longer discussion in the future, but since it had been raised by some of you I thought we should include it in our discussion.

**Agenda:**

1. Quick check in to establish who is on the call
2. Round robin discussion of *”recognition of midwives who have earned certification as a midwife by AMCB but are no longer in active clinical practice and/or are retired”*
3. Round robin discussion of *”future vision of communicating who midwives are to the public”*
4. Develop action points for follow up

Thank you all for participating in this process with us.