

## CERTIFIED MIDWIVES: INCREASE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CARE

### WHY RECOGNIZE THE CERTIFIED MIDWIFE?

- Over 36% of US counties are considered maternity care deserts, and approximately 4.7 million women in these counties live with limited access.<sup>1</sup> Individuals in these communities either go without essential health services or travel long distances to see a healthcare provider.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Contrary to global maternal health trends, the US is facing a maternal health crisis: high and rising levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, stark racial disparities, high cost of medical care, and a shortage of OB providers projected to worsen in coming years.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Midwives are underutilized in our country compared to other countries with better outcomes.<sup>5</sup>

### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: SCALE UP MIDWIFERY

- Integrating midwives in healthcare systems increases access to high-quality care, improves outcomes, and reduces costs.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Licensure of Certified Midwives grows the sexual and reproductive health workforce and increases access to high-quality perinatal, gynecologic, and primary care.

### CERTIFIED MIDWIVES: HIGHLY EDUCATED

- Certified Midwives earn graduate degrees from midwifery education programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME).
- Certified Midwives are board certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).
- Certified Midwives (CMs) and Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) master the same core competencies, sit for the same board exam, and have identical scopes of practice.<sup>8</sup>
- The only difference between CNMs and CMs is that CMs have a baccalaureate in a field other than nursing, and student midwives and student nurse-midwives are educated together in the same graduate program.
- CM education programs attract candidates from diverse backgrounds and professions, broadening the midwifery profession.<sup>9</sup>

### CERTIFIED MIDWIVES: NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recognizes CMs and CNMs as equivalent providers and as experts in their field of practice.<sup>10</sup>
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) recognizes the equivalency of CM and CNM scope of practice and supports CM licensure in all states.<sup>11</sup>
- March of Dimes recognizes the equivalency of CM and CNM scope of practice and supports efforts to expand access to midwifery care.<sup>12</sup>
- National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) recognizes CMs and CNMs as identical credentials under the umbrella classification "Advanced Practice Midwife."<sup>13</sup>
- CMs are currently licensed in AR, CO, DE, HI, MD, ME, NJ, NY, OK, RI, VA, and the District of Columbia. Numerous other states are pursuing recognition of CMs.

## References

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