

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 the independent provision of care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; sexual and reproductive health; gynecologic health; and family planning services, including preconception care. Midwives also provide primary care for individuals from adolescence throughout the lifespan, as well as care for the healthy newborn during the first 28 days of life.¹

In the context of providing midwifery care, the midwife may need to consult with other members of the health care team to provide 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 care management responsibility seeks the advice or opinion of a physician or another member of the health care team.
- *Collaboration* is the process whereby a CNM or CM and physician jointly manage the care of a person with medical, gynecologic, or obstetric complications or a newborn. The scope of collaboration may encompass physical care, including birth, by the CNM or CM according to a mutually agreed-upon plan of care. When the physician must assume a lead role because of 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 person to a physician or another health care professional for the management of a particular condition or aspect of care.

REFERENCE

1. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Definition of midwifery and scope of practice of certified nurse midwives and certified midwives. Updated December 2021. Accessed July 2022.
http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmlibrarydata/uploadfilename/000000000266/Definition%20Midwifery%20Scope%20of%20Practice_2021.pdf

Note. The terms *midwifery* and *midwives* as used throughout this document refer to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).

Original Source: Division of Standards and Practice
Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors: 1992
Revised: 1997, 2013, 2014, 2022