AMERICAN COLLEGE of NURSE-MIDWIVES

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 establishment of a United States health care system that provides high-quality, equitable, affordable care to all, regardless of the ability to pay.

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

- Health care plans must provide timely, direct access to culturally appropriate health care services and providers that are rooted in the communities they serve.
- Health care plans must provide comprehensive benefits —from prevention to treatment—and therapeutic modalities for all individuals and families, without regard for actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, citizenship or immigration status, gender identity or expression, sex, sexuality, disability, geographic location, or socioeconomic status.
- Healthcare plans should include comprehensive reproductive and gynecological care, including access to all methods of pregnancy prevention and termination.
- Health care plans must have an adequate number and variety of providers within a reasonable distance of the home or workplace to ensure timely, affordable access to benefits offered by the plan.
- Health care services must include unencumbered midwifery services as covered benefits. Reimbursement must be equitable among reproductive health care providers, and payment processes must not privilege particular clinical decision-making approaches or interventions.[1]
- Health care plans must actively support adequate provider training and compensation models that promote quality of life, with access to products and medications in the communities they serve, without interference in the patient-provider relationship.[2]

ACNM recognizes that health care for all, free from financial adversity, optimizes health outcomes and reduces poverty. Equitable, early access to preventive care reduces harm caused by advanced disease, lowers health care costs for consumers and providers, and can prevent medical-debt-related bankruptcy. [3-5]

ACNM also supports legislation to control the cost of health care, ensuring that individuals and families have access to adequate, high-quality, and affordable care. Everyone should have access to the full spectrum of qualified health care professionals and providers, including CNMs and CMs.

REFERENCES

1. The Lancet Group. Series: Global Health: Midwifery. *The Lancet*. June 23, 2014. Accessed July 9, 2025. https://www.thelancet.com/series-do/midwifery

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3. Zieff G, Kerr ZY, Moore JB, Stoner L. Universal healthcare in the United States of America: a healthy debate. *J Glob Health*. October 30, 2020. Accessed July 9, 2025. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7692272/
4. World Health Organization. Universal health coverage (UHC). March 26, 2025. Accessed July 9, 2025. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc)
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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 (AMCB).

Source: Division of Women's Health Policy and Leadership, Policy Development and Evaluation Section & Division of Standards and Practice Clinical Documents Section
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