



This scope of practice request aims to secure licensure for Certified Midwives (CMs) within the state of Connecticut. Certified Midwives are trained health care professionals, with graduate educational standards identical to those of Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs). This request seeks to establish a licensure process for CMs, removing the requirement for RN eligibility, and aligning with national trends in recognizing their role in women's health care.

1. Plain Language Description:

In 1994, the American College of Nurse-Midwives introduced the Certified Midwife (CM) credential, expanding pathways into accredited midwifery education, national certification, and comprehensive midwifery care. CMs are educated and trained in midwifery identically to CNMs, side-by-side in the same programs, and offer the same range of women's health care services. This proposal seeks to license CMs in Connecticut under the same standards as CNMs, excluding the RN eligibility prerequisite.

2. Public Health and Safety Benefits:

Licensure of CMs brings substantial public health and safety benefits:

- Enhanced access to midwifery care for women across diverse settings.
- Expanded availability of comprehensive women's health services.
- Improved outcomes through specialized care during pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum.
- Support for preventive care, family planning, and counseling services.

3. Impact on Public Access to Health Care:

Licensure of CMs improves public access to health care by:

- Increasing the number of midwives eligible to practice in CT.
- Enabling a broader range of skilled midwives to provide women's health care.
- Ensuring timely and personalized care during various stages of women's lives.
- Addressing shortages in maternal health care services, particularly in underserved areas.

4. Summary of Relevant Laws and Regulations:

The licensure framework for CMs aligns with state and federal regulations applicable to CNMs. This ensures adherence to established standards for patient care, ethics, and professionalism.

5. Education and Training Equivalence:

CMs and CNMs undergo identical education and training. Their training covers comprehensive care of women during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, and broader women's health services. The only difference is that CNMs learn basic health skills in nursing programs and CMs learn basic health skills in midwifery programs. Like physicians, CMs take pre-midwifery science and health subjects in their undergraduate preparation or as post-baccalaureate coursework.



6. Proposed Licensure Process:

The proposal suggests issuing licenses to CMs based on their successful completion of accredited midwifery programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), and completion of certification from the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). CNMs and CMs take the identical national certification examination. The requirement for RN eligibility is omitted.

7. Economic Impact:

Licensure positively impacts the economy by:

- Encouraging skilled midwives to practice in Connecticut.
- Potentially lowering health care costs through preventive and early intervention care.
- By not requiring graduation from nursing school, more precious nursing school placements are available.

8. Regional and National Trends:

The proposed licensure aligns with nationwide recognition of CMs as crucial contributors to women's health care, reflecting regional and national trends.

9. Strengthening Midwifery Practice:

Licensure empowers CMs to practice in accordance with their education, contributing fully to women's health care.

10. Addressing Affected Health Care Professions:

Efforts have been made to communicate with relevant health care professions emphasizing that CMs will engage and collaborate in the very same manner as CNMs. It is possible that more CMs practicing in CT could increase the number of potential preceptors for nursing, midwifery, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and medical students.

11. Relationship to Full Practice:

The proposal supports CMs' practice to the full extent of their education and training, promoting comprehensive women's health care. National standards and codes of ethics are identical for CMs and CNMs.

12. Conclusion:

This request for the licensure of Certified Midwives in Connecticut, consistent with the standards of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), is submitted in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 19a-16e, by the Connecticut Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

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