

A Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives (CNMs/CMs) and Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs)

A person with the credential CNM, CM or CPM has earned a nationally recognized credential. CNMs are required to have a nursing background. Neither CMs nor CPMs are required to have a nursing background. CNMs and CMs practice primarily in hospitals. CPMs practice primarily in out-of-hospital settings.

CNMs have been certified by examination since 1971. Since then, over 10,900 CNMs have been certified. CMs have been certified by examination since 1997. Since then, 57 CMs have been certified. The standards and certification mechanisms are equivalent to those set for CNMs.

The first CPM certificate was issued in 1994. Since then over 1,300 CPM certificates have been issued.

CNMs are licensed in all 50 states. Legal recognition has not yet been extended to CMs and CPMs in all 50 states.

There are other types of midwives who are not CNMs, CM, or CPMs. For purposes of this chart, they have not been included because there is no nationally recognized credential for these groups. More information about types of midwives is available in *Nurse Midwifery Today Online Handbook of State Laws and Regulations*, and the *Direct Entry Handbook: A Summary of State Laws and Regulations, 2002*.

Standard/Criteria Setting Organizations

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM, est. 1955) - ACNM is the professional association for CNMs and CMs. The mission of ACNM is to promote the health and well-being of women and infants within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), and certified midwives (CMs).ACNM Division of Accreditation (ACNM DOA, est. 1957) - recognized since 1982 by the US Dept. of Education as an accrediting agency for nurse-midwifery education programs and since 2000 for midwifery education programs, and since 2006 as an accreditor of freestanding institutions of midwifery education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA, est. 1982) - MANA is an organization of North American midwives and their advocates. The mission of MANA is to provide a nurturing forum for support and cooperation among midwives.Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC, est. 1991) - recognized since 2001 by the US Dept. of Education as an accrediting agency for midwifery education programs and institutions.

- American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) formerly ACNM Certification Council, Inc. (ACC, separately incorporated 1992) - awards the CNM or CM certificates to individuals who pass the certification exam. Prior to 1992, the exam and certificates were managed by the ACNM.
- North American Registry of Midwives (NARM, est. 1986) - awards the CPM certificate to individuals who complete the certification process and pass the certification exams.

Education Requirements

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ACNM DOA accredited programs are post-baccalaureate and grant either a certificate or a degree at a master's or doctoral level. Beginning in 2010 a graduate degree will be required for entry into practice. (Graduation from an ACNM DOA accredited programs is required for certification). • Education content must incorporate ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice. If not a nurse, the competencies delineated in the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviors for Basic Midwifery Clinical Coursework must be obtained prior to entry into the midwifery clinical courses of the curriculum in addition to college level courses in biology, chemistry, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, psychology, sociology, healthcare, and nutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The educational standards for the CPM are met by graduation from MEAC accredited programs or nurse-midwifery schools, or by completion of NARM's Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) which is equivalent. MEAC Accredited schools are formal education programs that grant either a certificate or degree upon graduation. • Education content for certificate programs must incorporate MANA Core Competencies, NARM Written Test Specifications, NARM Skills Assessment Test Specifications, NARM Written Examination Primary Reference List and NARM Skills Assessment Reference List. Degree granting programs must include a general education coursework including an appropriate distribution of coursework from the humanities, applied sciences, and social studies.

Certification Requirements

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must graduate from an ACNM DOA accredited nurse-midwifery or midwifery education program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are four routes to earning the CPM credential, all of which require out-of-hospital birth experience: 1) Complete NARM's competency-based PEP Program; 2) Graduate from a MEAC accredited school; 3) Obtain legal recognition in a state previously evaluated for educational equivalency; 4) Obtain certification by the AMCB as a CNM/CM (with the requirement of ten out-of-hospital births).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must pass the AMCB certification exam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must pass the NARM certification exams.

Faculty and Preceptor Requirements

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty must be certified by ACNM or AMCB, have a minimum of a master's degree or be responsible to faculty with a minimum of a master's degree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For MEAC accredited institutions: MEAC faculty must be recognized as a midwife by the certifying/licensing mechanism in their jurisdiction, have preparation appropriate to their areas of responsibility and have at least two years of clinical experience. Faculty teaching in degree granting programs must have a degree at the level of the degree(s) granted by the institution or higher.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic students must be directly supervised by a clinical preceptor who is ACNM or AMCB certified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preceptors for NARM's PEP program must be nationally certified, or legally recognized in their jurisdiction, or must have practiced as primary attendants without supervision for at least 50 out-of-hospital births for a minimum of three years.

Clinical Experience Requirements

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include hospital experience and adequate management experiences to demonstrate mastery of ACNM Core Competencies. • Site visit of clinical sites required as part of the accreditation process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clinical component of the education process must be at least one year in duration and equivalent to at least 1350 clinical contact hours under the supervision of one or more preceptors. Continuity of care is required, and at least 10 of the 20 primary births must occur in out-of-hospital settings. Must include adequate experience to demonstrate mastery of NARM Skills and MANA Core Competencies. • MEAC’s accreditation process requires evaluations of clinical sites and preceptors. NARM’s Portfolio Evaluation Process includes Skills Assessments to evaluate the applicant’s clinical skills.

Scope of Practice

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care from puberty through the life span including preconception, antepartum, intrapartum, post-partum, neonatal, and family planning/gynecological care, and pharmacologic treatment. • All topics are tested by the AMCB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent care during pregnancy, labor, birth, post-partum, newborn care, support and information regarding overall reproductive health of women. • All topics are tested by NARM.

Certification Reciprocity

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reciprocity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will accept ACNM or AMCB certification with documentation of out-of-hospital birth experience in order to be eligible to take the NARM Written Examination

Note: This information summarizes a number of publications available as of 02/24/07 from these standard/criteria setting organizations. For additional information and to confirm accuracy, readers are encouraged to contact the individual organizations.

Contact Information

CNMs/CMs	CPMs
<p>ACNM: www.midwife.org AMCB: www.amcbmidwife.org</p>	<p>MANA: www.mana.org MEAC: www.meacschools.org NARM: www.narm.org</p>