

ACNM Certification Council, Inc. 2004 Annual Report

The mission of ACC is to protect and serve the public by providing the certification standard for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery. ACC fulfills its mission through three primary activities: a national examination for initial certification as a nurse-midwife (CNM) or midwife (CM), a re-certification program for CNMs or CMs, and professional discipline.

During 2004, the national certification examination was administered in multiple sites throughout the country, on January 16, June 25, and October 15. A total of 277 new CNMs and 10 new CMs achieved initial certification. For first-time candidates, the overall pass rate on the certification examination was 87.5%. Since the year 2000 in which 454 CNM/CMs were initially certified, the number of new CNM/CMs certified annually has declined 36.8%

The first 8-year cycle of the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) was completed in December 2004. The new release CMP module for 2004 was Antepartum and Primary Care of the Pregnant Woman. By December 31, 2005, individuals initially certified in 1997 must complete all requirements for re-certification.

A major initiative during 2004 was the development of a plan to transition the certification examination to Computer-Based Testing (CBT) with a commercial testing vendor, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). This transition will be accomplished in early 2005. This initiative was led by the chairperson of the Examination Committee and composed of the chairperson of the Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee, a representative from the Directors of Midwifery Education (DOME), a student midwife, ACC's Executive Director, ACC's Exam Consultant, and a CBT consultant. Advantages of CBT to the candidate for certification include availability of examination approximately 290 days per year, personal choice of day and time to take the exam, a minimum of 120 locations to take the test throughout the country, a private test experience, more rapid knowledge of results, and no application deadlines.

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