

BREAKING NEWS: CHANGES IN YOUR MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION

The American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is making significant changes in the certification and recertification process that will affect all certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs).

- ***Effective January 1, 2011 all CNMs/CMs will have time-limited certificates and be enrolled in CMP. During 2009 and 2010 nurse-midwives certified prior to 1/1/96 should notify AMCB with current contact information to ensure the receipt of their new certificate.***
- ***In 2010 the CMP cycle length will be changed from 8 to 5 years for all newly certified individuals.***
- ***Effective in 2010 there will be changes in the required activities with in CMP.***

BACKGROUND

What is the AMCB? AMCB (formerly known as the ACNM Certification Council), is the certifying agency for CNMs and CMs. AMCB's mission is "to protect and serve the public by establishing and maintaining the certification standards for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery." AMCB, as the certifying body, answers to the public and state licensing boards.

Responsibilities of AMCB include:

- Initial certification for midwifery
- Recertification (certificate maintenance)
- Discipline

What is the role of ACNM in midwifery certification? The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association that represents CNMs and CMs in the United States. The mission of the 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 CNMs and CMs. ACNM has a formal relationship with AMCB and provides input from a membership perspective on important issues. ACNM has been providing the Continuing Competency Assessment Program (CCA) program and will continue to do so during the transition period.

The ACNM provides leadership in (among other things):

- Research,
- Development, approval, and administration of continuing education programs,
- Establishment of clinical practice standards,
- Relationships with state and federal agencies and members of Congress and other non-governmental organizations related to the health care of women.

Why are the two organizations separate?

Professions of all sorts must maintain certification, and function with separate standards from the membership organization. In 1991 the certification body became a distinct and separately incorporated organization from ACNM to meet this requirement.

Certification and Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) Updates

1. Why is AMCB changing the CMP process?

1. Lifetime certification for health care providers is no longer acceptable to the public or regulatory agencies.
2. Most health care professional organizations and the new guidelines approved by the ACNM and AMCB require certification cycles not longer than 5 years.
3. Evidence shows that the requirement of CEUs alone is ineffective in maintaining clinical competence.

2. Who made the decision?

AMCB, with agreement from the ACNM Board.

In Spring, 2008 AMCB representatives attended the ACNM Board of Directors meeting to present data and analysis related to evolving state requirements on certification and recertification, and the certification standards of various health care professional. The ACNM Board supported the need to revise the certification standards for CNMs and CMs. A taskforce made up of AMCB volunteers, ACNM members, a member of ACNM Division of Education, lifetime certificants, and a time-limited certificant made proposals for the changes. These were considered and approved by a joint meeting of AMCB Board Members and staff, ACNM leaders and leaders of other midwifery organizations and adopted.

3. How will these changes affect my certification?

Current CMP Participants For those currently enrolled in the CMP (certified after January 1, 1996), the module and CEU requirements will remain the same (3 modules and 2.0 CEUs) however, you will be required to submit verification of an active license with no restrictions, to demonstrate professional standing.

Your current certification cycle **will not change** if your current expiration date is one of the following:

If your current certificate expires on:
December 31, 2010
December 31, 2011
December 31, 2012
December 31, 2013
December 31, 2014
December 31, 2015

However, if your **current certificate expires on December 31, 2016**, please see the table below:

If your current certificate expires on:	Your new expiration date will be:
December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015

For all current CMP participants, your certification cycle will change from 8 to 5 years, once your current certification cycle has expired and your certificate renews.

CCA Enrollees For CCA enrollees, your initial certification cycle in the CMP will expire at the same time as your current CCA cycle. The CMP requirements for your initial certification cycle are as follows:

Current CCA Cycle	Your certification will expire on:	Module Requirement	CEU Requirement
07/11	December 31, 2011	1	2.0
08/12	December 31, 2012	2	2.0
09/13	December 31, 2013	2	2.0

Non-CCA Enrollees For those not currently enrolled in the CCA, you will be enrolled into the CMP based on your original year of certification. The CMP requirements for your initial certification cycle are as follows:

If you were certified in a year ending in:	Your certification will expire on:	Module Requirement	CEU Requirement
0 or 9	December 31, 2015	3	2.0
1 or 5	December 31, 2014	3	2.0
2 or 8	December 31, 2013	2	2.0
3 or 7	December 31, 2012	2	2.0
4 or 6	December 31, 2011	1	2.0

Please note: For all CNMs certified prior to January 1, 1996, once your first certification cycle is complete, you will adopt the CMP Requirements found below, under question number three.

3. How do I enroll in the CMP?

During 2009 and 2010 nurse-midwives certified prior to 1/1/96 should notify AMCB with current contact information to ensure the receipt of their new certificate. Please call 866-366-9632 or visit the website at www.amcbmidwife.org.

4. How does CMP differ from CCA?

Under CMP, you will be required to complete three self learning modules in a five year cycle. The modules address current practice for the full scope of midwifery practice, and encourage midwives to incorporate evidenced-based care into their practice. Each module contains references and learning objectives from 18-20 articles and an open-book multiple choice test.

In addition, midwives are required to complete 2.0 CEUs (20 hrs) of ACNM or ACCME approved CE) of your choice per five year cycle. Activities which are currently accepted in lieu of CEUs for CCA will also be accepted for CMP.

After 2010, CCA will no longer be available.

5. What is the cost of participating in the CMP?

As of 2010, the cost will be \$65/year, a reduction from \$90/year previously charged. This fee includes the modules, the self-assessment form (questions), and answer sheet. You have the option of purchasing the articles (at cost) or accessing them yourself. We are moving to an online option.

If you Prepaid for your current eight-year certification cycle, you will receive a credit on your account in January, 2010 when the cycle changes to five years.

For those certified prior to 1996, no payment will be due until 2011. Our goal is to update contact information between now and December 2010 with billing to begin with the January 2011 invoice. CCA participants will receive a partial credit based on when they enrolled in their current CCA cycle.

6. What if I'm a certified nurse-midwife/certified midwife who is retired from practice?

CNMs and CMs who are not currently employed in a position which requires certification, but may return to such a position are encouraged to maintain participation in CMP. In order to become recertified after certification has lapsed, the midwife must retake the initial certification exam and show evidence of 10 hrs CE for each year since the most recent certification.

For CNMs who have **permanently** retired from practice ('practice' is defined as any roles that require CNM certification for the position), a new category of CNM is being created. AMCB welcomes ideas on what to call this category. Suggestions so far include "retired" or "emeritus".

7. What are the national trends of certification maintenance for health professionals?

With the recent focus on improved quality care and reducing errors, at least three national reports have identified four components of continuing certification.

- a. Documentation of professional standing (valid license which permits midwifery practice)
- b. Process of life-long learning. The current CMP requirements meet this principle.

The activities for the following two principles will be developed over the next 5 years:

- c. Assessment of Performance in Practice
- d. Standardized Cognitive Assessment

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the certification changes, please email cbright@amcbmidwife.org.