

CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE

A Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) provides care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; gynecological care, and family planning services including sexual and reproductive healthcare. A CNM is a primary care provider for women throughout the lifespan, from adolescence through menopause. Midwifery care includes health promotion, disease prevention, risk assessment and management, and individualized wellness education and counseling. CNMs are advance practice registered nurses (APRNs) who have completed both nursing and graduate-level midwifery education programs and hold a master's degree or higher.

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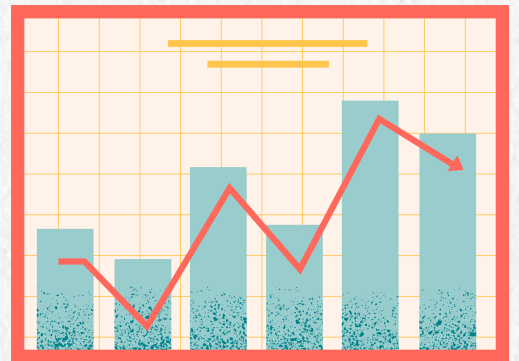


CNMs work in partnership with individuals and families in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals, and birth centers. CNMs have prescriptive authority and practice independently within a healthcare system that includes collaboration with multiple healthcare professionals to ensure the health and safety of women and their newborns.

02

CNM care is linked to the same or better birth outcomes compared to physicians with a similar population, including:

- fewer interventions during labor such as episiotomies and induction
- fewer preterm births and infant deaths
- more vaginal births
- more breastfeeding
- greater satisfaction with care



03

CNMs pass a national certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) to receive the professional designation of CNM. CNMs practice within the standards of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM). To maintain the designation of CNM, midwives must be recertified every five years through AMCB and must meet specific continuing education requirements. ACNM sets the standard for excellence in nurse-midwifery education and practice in the United States.

04

CNMs are found providing the majority of care during birth in Kentucky hospitals, although CNMs provide home birth services as well. In 2021, 11% of all babies born in Kentucky were caught by a CNM.

