



House Bill 496 Key Terms

Courtesy of the Office of State Representative Kyle Koehler

Types of Midwives

Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)*: The only midwife licensed in Ohio, CNMs are Registered Nurses (RN) or Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) that have additional training in midwifery. Most hold a master's degree or PhD. While CNMs are able to practice in all birth settings including private homes, clinics, birth centers, physicians' offices, and hospitals, a majority strictly attend births in a hospital setting.

Certified Midwife (CM)*: Hold a master's degree or PhD in midwifery, but, unlike CNMs, do not hold a degree in nursing. While CMs are able to practice in all birth settings including private homes, clinics, birth centers, physicians' offices, and hospitals, a majority strictly attend births in a hospital setting.

Certified Professional Midwife (CPM)**: Have graduated from a midwifery education program or an experience-based education route and have obtained a CPM certification through NARM. CPMs work almost exclusively in freestanding birth centers and in the home-birth setting. CPMs are trained to provide care for low-risk, normal pregnancies.

Direct-Entry Midwife (DEM)**: *Also called a Traditional Midwife or Lay Midwife.* Often educated through an apprentice based model, DEMs have no formal certification, licensure, or education program. Training and the level of care DEMs engage in varies greatly between midwives.

* CNMs and CMs are certified through the same organization and have the same professional organization. In all ways but education, CNMs and CMs are functionally the same.

**Because Ohio does not regulate CPMs and DEMs, current law treats these two credentials the same despite the vast differences in education.

Accrediting Bodies and Professional Organizations

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG): The professional organization for obstetrician-gynecologists.

Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA): The professional organization for physicians.

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM): The professional organization for Certified Professional Midwives.

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM): The professional organization for Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives.

American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB): The national certifying body for Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives.

North American Registry of Midwives (NARM): The national certifying body for Certified Professional Midwives.

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC): The national certifying body for Certified Professional Midwifery Education programs, most of which are structured like a college degree and hosted at U.S. Department of Education approved institutions of higher education.

Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME): The national certifying body for Certified Nurse – Midwifery and Certified Midwifery Education programs, all of which are structured as a college degree and hosted at U.S. Department of Education approved institutions of higher education.

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM): The global governing body that sets the international standard for safe midwifery care, including the certification of midwifery certifying bodies. NARM, MEAC, ACME, and AMCB are all ICM certified.

U.S. Midwifery Education, Regulation, & Association (US MERA): The coalition comprised of national midwifery associations, credentialing bodies and education accreditation agencies. This coalition includes NACPM, ACNM, NARM, ACME, AMCB, MEAC, and others.

Education and Training

MEAC Education Program*: Midwifery education training model for CPMs offered through 11 colleges/post-secondary institutions, accredited through MEAC, focuses on clinical birth care in the out-of-hospital setting and is an alternative to traditional, apprentice-based learning.

Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) Program*: An apprentice-based learning model for CPMs, accredited through NARM, that promotes competency based, direct-assessment education.

Midwifery Bridge Certificate: 50 hours of targeted continuing education for CPMs, certified through NARM and focuses on emergency skills, delivery and maternal complications, and other life-saving measures. Also acts as a supplemental, hands-on education to make sure that apprentice trained CPMs exhibit the same core competencies as MEAC trained CPMs.

NARM Registered Preceptor: A midwife who meets requirements for supervising CPM candidates and has current, approved registration through NARM. Preceptors act as teachers in educating new midwives through an apprentice-based model.

[US MERA Professional Regulation Committee Statement on Licensure](#): Announced in June of 2015, this proposal stated the goal for all U.S. states to pass legislation to license CPMs by 2020. The verdict encouraged states to include three possible education paths for CPMs:

- Graduation from a MEAC Education Program and obtain the CPM certification through NARM;
- Obtain the CPM certification through NARM (no MEAC) and obtain the Midwifery Bridge Certificate;
- Hold a valid license to practice as a CPM in another state and hold a Midwifery Bridge Certificate.

* PEP Program participants take the same CPM certification exam through NARM as MEAC Education Program participants.

