



national association of certified professional midwives



US MERA: What it Could Mean for CPMs

Webinar Registration

[Register Now](#)

and **join us** for US MERA: What Could It Mean for CPMs, **next Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

[CEUs for prior Webinars](#)

Save the Date:

US MERA: What Could It Mean for CPMs
September 15, 2015
2:00 - 3:30 pm ET

US MERA: How To Put It To Use For CPMs
October 27, 2015
2:00 - 3:30 pm ET

MAMA Campaign: A New Foundation for Federal Recognition of CPMs
November 5, 2015
2:00 - 3:30 pm ET

Dear ,

Certified Professional Midwives are passionate about providing midwifery care that makes a difference in the lives of women, babies, and their families. From Los Angeles to Boston, recent media reports have explored the important role that midwives can play in improving birth outcomes. Even some physicians who were once skeptical are arguing that giving birth outside a hospital with a midwife could be safer and much less expensive for many American women.

But all too often, CPMs encounter barriers to their practice that limit their ability to provide care to the very families that most need and want their

services. NACPM is dedicated to organizing and providing support to CPMs - whether you are working toward legal recognition, better reimbursement, access to education, job opportunities, or the respect and cooperation of your professional

colleagues. Finding a way forward through this maze and removing obstacles that have long stymied our progress is our priority.



Joining Forces

Meeting our goal of better supporting midwives is best done in collaboration

with other organizations. That is why we have joined forces with other midwifery organizations around the world who are inspired by the vision for strengthening midwifery, by embracing the standards for education, regulation, and professional associations adopted by the [International Confederation of Midwives](#).

In 2012, NACPM was one of seven organizations linked to national midwifery certification and education in the United States that began exploring how the international standards could be applied to conditions in this country in order to strengthen midwifery and improve maternity care for all families.

US MERA

The US Midwifery Education, Regulation and Association (US MERA) collaboration has been a forum for identifying common ground and core values among CPMs, CNMs and CMs. US MERA has established several committees and task forces that are grappling with some of the most difficult issues that have hindered our progress as midwives in the US. By learning more about each other and working together, we are finding ways to advance midwifery that will lead to support for more autonomous midwifery, new state legislation, expanded educational opportunities, and better inter-professional relations. Please read the [report](#) from the June, 2015 US MERA Annual Meeting.



NACPM Webinars about US MERA

To learn more about how our work in the US MERA collaboration could improve conditions for CPMs, please join us for the next two NACPM webinars:

- **"US MERA: What It Could Mean for CPMs"** on *Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm Eastern time*. This webinar will provide an overview of the purpose, history, accomplishments, and next steps for

US MERA. Please [Register Now](#) for this webinar!

- **"US MERA: How to Put It to Use for CPMs"** on *Tuesday October 27, 2015 at 2:00 pm Eastern time*. This webinar will examine the results of the US MERA collaboration in more depth and explore how CPMs can put products like the "Principles for Model Midwifery Legislation" to use in individual states.

Participation in the webinar series is **FREE**, and CEUs are available at \$15 per webinar. The webinar will be recorded and made available on our website for those unable to participate live.

These webinars are part of our [State Legislation and Policy Series](#), co-sponsored by [Citizens for Midwifery](#) (CfM) and the [Association of Midwifery Educators](#) (AME). The series is designed to provide critical information to CPMs, advocates, and policy makers as we work together to secure licensing and policy in support of full scope autonomous midwifery for CPMs in all 50 states.

Midwifery in the Media: Reports Outlining the Important Role Midwives Play in Improving Birth Outcomes:

"The British National Health Service has gone as far as to recommend healthy women with low-risk pregnancies are better off out of the hospital, giving birth at home or at a midwife-led birthing center. American obstetrician Dr. Neel Shah, a professor at Harvard Medical School, set out last spring to rebut that counsel in the pages of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Instead, his article ultimately argued that giving birth outside a hospital with a midwife could be safer and much cheaper for many American women, too." ([Call \(back\) the Midwife: Boston Globe, September 2, 2015](#))



Dr. Neel Shaw from
NEJM, 6.4.15

Neel Shah, MD, MPP: "The safety argument against physician-led hospital birth is simple and compelling: obstetricians, who are trained to use scalpels and are surrounded by operating rooms, are much more likely than midwives to pick up those scalpels and use them. For women giving birth, the many interventions that have become commonplace during childbirth are unpleasant and may lead to complications, including hospital-acquired infections. For babies, the interventions rarely appear to be helpful." ([A Nice Delivery: New England Journal of Medicine, June 4, 2015](#))

The British guidelines for "Intrapartum care: care of healthy women and their babies during childbirth" are available at the [National Institute for Health Care Excellence website](#).

The Boston Globe article features an interview with Eugene

Declercq, a professor at Boston University's Schools of Public Health and Medicine, who has studied childbirth practices in the United States and abroad. He founded the website <http://www.birthbythenumbers.org/>, an excellent resource for midwifery advocates, educators, journalists and policymakers.



Eugene Declercq,
PhD

Debbie Allen, CPM, LM, says "Black lives, they're threatened from the womb to the grave, so every time I see a black baby being born healthy to black parents that feel empowered, I think that's going to make all the difference as a people in what we ask for ourselves and what we ask of others." Debbie "is part of a loosely organized movement of black midwives in the Los Angeles area who are attempting to stem the rates of African-American babies dying every year for preventable reasons. Employing holistic pre- and postnatal care, the midwives have simple goals: to bring the belief that black lives matter to the womb and to carry on the spirit of those who came before them in the name of reproductive justice."



Jennie Joseph, CPM

Jennie Joseph, the president of National Association of Birthing Centers of Color, says that while midwifery has been good for small, localized populations, it's going to take more to fix disparities across the medical system. Until that happens, however, she believes that midwives are leading the charge in providing humane care. "No one has recognized nor invested in any real way of looking for interventions or supporting best practices. There isn't any interest in solving this problem, and that's why it exists," she says. "I'm not looking for midwifery to save the day, but midwives are the ones moving forward with these ideas and interventions."

[Read the entire article here.](#)

For more information about the Community Birth Center in Los Angeles see <http://lacommunitybirth.com/>.

To learn about the National Association of Birthing Centers of Color (an NACPM sponsor), see <http://www.birthcentersofcolor.org/>.

With all best wishes,



Mary Lawlor, Executive Director

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives

REGISTER
for the free webinar

 Find us on
Facebook



Trusted Email from
Constant Contact

Try it **FREE** today.