

## CPMs: Midwifery Landscape and Future Directions

*A set of briefing papers and recommendations from NACPM | OCTOBER 2017*

### Implications of Federal Recognition on Medicaid Reimbursement for CPMs

Midwives are anxious to understand how the proposed federal legislation to recognize CPMs for Medicaid reimbursement will impact them individually. A number of different scenarios are described below to help everyone plan for their own future.

*Note: This bill is not yet law, and the implications described below will only apply when the bill to federally recognize CPMs and include CPMs in the federal Medicaid program becomes law. In providing the information below, NACPM is looking to the future and supporting CPMs to be prepared to take full advantage of likely emerging opportunities.*

- » CPMs who have received their CPM credential and who have graduated from a MEAC-accredited education program and are practicing in states where they are already licensed and reimbursed by Medicaid, will continue to be eligible for reimbursement.
- » CPMs who have received their CPM credential and who have graduated from a MEAC-accredited education program and are licensed in states where they are not currently reimbursed by Medicaid, will become eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
- » CPMs who have received their CPM credential by 2020 and who have not graduated from a MEAC-accredited education program and are practicing in states where they are already licensed and reimbursed by Medicaid, will need to secure the Midwifery Bridge Certificate in order to continue to be reimbursed once their state implements the new federal statute regarding Medicaid reimbursement for CPMs (will take some time).

- » CPMs who have received their CPM credential by 2020 and who have not graduated from a MEAC-accredited education program who are already licensed but not reimbursed by their state Medicaid program, will now have a path to Medicaid reimbursement. They will need to secure the Midwifery Bridge Certificate in order to be reimbursed when their state complies with the new federal statute.
- » CPMs who are credentialed after 2020 will need to have completed a MEAC-accredited program in order to be reimbursed. A number of MEAC-accredited schools offer accelerated programs for already certified CPMs, providing access to Medicaid reimbursement for CPMs who are in this category.

#### Midwives who are not CPMs:

- » In order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement as their state complies with the new federal statute, **they will need to have obtained their CPM credential by 2020.** For states where there is licensing for direct-entry midwives and if midwives have taken the NARM exam as part of obtaining their state license, obtaining their CPM is a relatively easy and inexpensive process. [narm.org/equivalency-applicants/lrspeee-or-licensed-in-approved-states/](http://narm.org/equivalency-applicants/lrspeee-or-licensed-in-approved-states/)

### Midwives becoming CPMs after 2020:

- » Midwives becoming CPMs after 2020 will need an accredited education to be reimbursed by Medicaid. A number of MEAC-accredited schools offer accelerated Bachelor's degree programs for CPMs, providing access to Medicaid reimbursement for CPMs who are in this category.

Anyone considering becoming a midwife should carefully examine their options for training in light of the changing legal and professional environment, keeping mind that midwives often move from one state to another. There are a wide variety and diversity of accredited educational programs including structured apprenticeships, distance education, correspondence education, self-paced programs, programs within large institutions, free-standing schools or colleges, and programs that result in certificates or degrees in midwifery. ([www.meacschools.org](http://www.meacschools.org)) Those considering non-accredited pathways should check national certification and state licensing requirements to be sure their plan serves their future interests.

Please also see: **Preparing for the Future: Recommendations for Midwives & Students**

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