



CPMs: Midwifery Landscape and Future Directions

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Federal Recognition for CPMs

Federal recognition of the CPM will be achieved by amending the Social Security Act, which houses the Medicare and Medicaid laws, to mandate federal Medicaid reimbursement for CPM services. Inclusion in the Social Security Act is critical for health professions—not only does it mandate Medicaid reimbursement but it opens doors for inclusion in the systems of care, health professional education, and reimbursement that support health professions and define the delivery of health care in our country. The current strategy to achieve federal recognition for CPMs is to include a definition of the CPM in the Medicare statute for purposes of reimbursement by Medicaid. This definition will align with language endorsed by the national midwifery organizations participating in the US MERA collaborative and would reside in law alongside the definitions of other providers covered under federal Medicaid.

Federal action is needed to ensure that all childbearing people, especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need of services, will have access to that care.

Inclusion of CPMs in the Social Security Act will significantly increase access to Medicaid reimbursement for CPM services. (See: *Federal Recognition: History and Current Strategy of the MAMA Campaign*) As of September 2017, CPMs are reimbursed by Medicaid through state plan amendments in only 13 of the 31 states where they are licensed. Given the slow and cumbersome history of securing Medicaid reimbursement for CPMs on a state-by-state basis, federal action is needed to ensure that all childbearing people, especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need of services, will have access to that care.

In addition to the primary goal of Medicaid reimbursement, federal recognition will open doors for CPMs to participate in other federal programs that are available to health professions included in the Social Security Act. Federal recognition is a prerequisite to these additional advantages that have supported other health professions in the U.S. to grow their workforce, and increase opportunities for education, reimbursement and employment, including:

- » Greater access to private payer reimbursement
- » Support for licensing in all states and territories
- » Inclusion in other federal reimbursement programs, such as Tricare
- » Participation for CPM students/graduates in the National Health Service Corps
- » CPM access to federal student loan repayment programs
- » Employment in federally qualified health centers
- » Participation in the Indian Health Service

The initiative to secure federal recognition is well underway, but securing its success and achieving the subsequent opportunities will require steadfast commitment and resources for some years to come. NACPM is committed to this on-going work with CPMs and stakeholders to accomplish what lies ahead to build a viable role for CPMs and our capacity to serve the critical needs of childbearing people in the United States.