



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **ACNM Succeeds In Petitioning For Coding Change** ***National Committee Creates New “Advanced Practice Midwife”*** ***Category for CNMs and CMs***

**SILVER SPRING, MD – ACNM has gained approval from the National Uniform Claim Committee for an appropriate taxonomy code for certified midwives (CMs)—effectively fixing an earlier NUCC decision to eliminate its CM taxonomy code. NUCC’s solution creates a new designation for certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and CMs as advanced practice midwives.**

The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) was formally named in the administrative simplification section of the HIPAA of 1996 to develop national standards for transactions used by non-institutional health care providers to transmit claims and encounter information to and from all third-party payers. Chaired by the American Medical Association with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a critical partner, the committee includes representation from providers, payers, designated standards maintenance organizations, public health organizations, and others.

NUCC decided in 2007 to replace an existing taxonomy code for CMs with a new, undifferentiated code for midwives who are not nurses but may or may not have any formal education or credential. In eliminating the CM code, the NUCC failed to recognize CMs’ broad scope of practice and training, which is comparable to that of the certified nurse-midwife. Like CNMs, CMs are trained to provide full scope well woman and gynecological care throughout the life cycle in addition to maternity care.

Immediately noticing the CM taxonomy change, ACNM warned NUCC that the reclassification of CMs created a potential for altered risk assessments and insurance rate hikes for CMs that would be completely unwarranted and could well drive many CMs out of practice as well as provide a barrier to entry to practice.

NUCC’s solution to the problem will be to add CMs to the existing “Certified Nurse-Midwife” coding category which will be renamed “Advanced Practice Midwife.” The revision, which will be included in the July 1<sup>st</sup> release of the new edition of the code set, will ensure CMs are characterized appropriately given their training and education.

“This is a terrific development that should be very helpful in distinguishing among types of midwives—often a confusing task for insurance companies and health care administrative personnel,” says ACNM Executive Director Lorrie Kline Kaplan.

ACNM is dedicated to working to maximize the extent to which CMs have the same rights and responsibilities as certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and are understood to have attained the same

credential despite certified midwives' non-nursing route to midwifery practice. The mechanisms to educate and credential certified midwives (CMs) were approved in 1997. CMs are not registered nurses, but may hold other professional designations as health care providers such as a physician assistant or physical therapist. Licensed to practice in New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island, individuals choosing this career path are pioneers in the profession, much like the early nurse-midwives who practiced in the U.S.

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With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org).

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