



Effective Health Care

Certified Nurse Midwives

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Certified nurse midwives was found to be addressed by a 2012 systematic review titled *Comparison of Labor and Delivery Care Provided by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Physicians: A Systematic Review, 1990 to 2008*. Given that the existing review covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - Johantgen M, Fountain L, Zangaro G, Newhouse R, Stanik-Hutt J, White K. Comparison of labor and delivery care provided by certified nurse-midwives and physicians: a systematic review, 1990 to 2008. *Womens Health Issues*. 2012;22:e73-e81.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in health outcomes of patients receiving care from a certified nurse midwife compared to other provider types.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Pregnant women and infants/neonates

Intervention(s): Maternity care from a certified nurse midwife

Comparator(s): Maternity care from an OB/GYN, family practice physician, or direct entry midwife

Outcome(s): Cesarean section rates, intrapartum intervention rates, preterm birth, peripartum and neonatal infections, birth complications, admissions to NICU, elective labor induction rates, maternal-infant bonding, rates of neonatal anemia, breastfeeding rates, health outcomes, and long-term outcomes

Key Questions from Nominator: 1. Do certified nurse midwives decrease risk and improve outcomes to pregnant women?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Topic was found to be addressed by an existing systematic review by Johantgen and colleagues titled *Comparison of Labor and Delivery Care Provided by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Physicians: A*

Systematic Review, 1990 to 2008. This review provides a detailed discussion of labor and delivery care outcomes of certified nurse-midwives compared to physicians. The review included 18 studies that reported maternal and infant outcomes. While this review compares certified nurse midwives to physicians, it does not compare them to direct-entry midwives. A brief scan of the literature only revealed one observational study that mentioned direct-entry midwives; therefore, this comparison is not feasible for a full systematic review by the EHC Program at this time.