



EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Certified Professional Midwives are not “lay midwives.” They are nationally credentialed, trained professionals. CPMs are not nurse midwives. However, the American College of Nurse Midwives and the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives are in support of SB85.
- CPMs meet rigorous education and qualification standards! The CPM is nationally accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, the same body that accredits many healthcare credentials, including the Certified Nurse-Midwife. In fact, SB85 is compliant with the USMERA agreement which goes above and beyond the basic, rigorous requirements for the CPM. The Board of Midwifery would NOT be creating the standards. SB85 clearly states the requirements for licensure.
- CPMs are not required to obtain nursing degrees because they are not nurses!



SCOPE OF CARE

- The CPM scope of care is clearly defined in SB85 by referencing national standards.
- CPM scope of care is limited to normal, low-risk pregnancy.
- Why would we require, by statute, when someone must see a physician? CPMs refer to a higher level of care when needed, but in what other situation to we mandate when a person must see a physician?
- We proposed adding language from Best Practice Guidelines for Home to Hospital Transfer, but this was rejected by ACOG. Hospitals are required by law to accept emergencies, and we all have 911 service. Also, most hospital transfers for home birth are made by private vehicle well before they are emergent.
- CPMs are absolutely trained to use medications that are considered standard of care for pregnancy and for birth related emergencies. The opposition simply has no clue about CPM training.
- We have seen in other states (IN, DE, CA, for a few) that hospitals and physicians are reluctant to sign agreements with CPMs, thus requirements for agreements such as this effectively prevent midwives from practicing. Require the physicians to sign these agreements, too.
- It is true. SB85 places no restrictions on where a CPM can practice.
- Regardless of where a baby is born, there is never a requirement of when you must take your child to a pediatrician. Midwives do a newborn screening and perform metabolic tests, etc. just as a hospital does.
- The scope of practice of a CPM allows for monitoring of a normal newborn for up to 6 weeks. Anything outside of normal is immediately referred to a higher level of care.



PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

- No providers of ANY type are required to obtain and maintain medical malpractice insurance in Kentucky.
- Informed consent requirements are clearly defined in SB85.
- Data reporting is clearly defined in SB85. In fact, this section was updated in our committee substitute per the suggestions of ACOG.

Families should have the right to make their own private family healthcare decisions. Right now, families ARE choosing home birth, and there are no regulations in place. Support SB85, and let's make home birth safer for Kentucky families.