Standards and Core Competencies of Practice for Licensed Midwives in New Mexico

A set of professional standards is an essential tool for midwives to articulate the features of midwifery care and demonstrate accountability for safe and competent practice. Core competencies represent a minimum base of knowledge and a basic set of skills and behaviors that midwives must master in order practice in alignment with professional standards.

Standards and core competencies for midwifery practice are established, maintained, and updated by national and global professional associations. The Maternal Health Program of the New Mexico Department of Health endorses the standards and core competencies held by the following associations in reference to direct-entry midwifery practice:

- International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)
- National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM)
- Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) (note dissolution of MANA; documents have been preserved by NACPM)

These organizations update standards and core competencies documents regularly, and the latest editions should always be referenced.

All New Mexico Licensed Midwives are expected to incorporate current standards and core competencies from one or more of the organizations listed above into their own practice documents, including any practice guidelines that supplement the *Department of Health Practice Guidelines for New Mexico Licensed Midwives*.

Links to Resources:
- International Confederation of Midwives ICM's Position Statements describe the beliefs and principles of the Confederation (internationalmidwives.org)
    - Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice. International Confederation of Midwives: Essential Competencies Resources
    - International Code of Ethics for Midwives Microsoft Word - CD2008_001 V2014 ENG International Code of Ethics for Midwives.docx (internationalmidwives.org)
    - Philosophy and Model of Midwifery Care. International Confederation of Midwives: Philosophy Resources
- MANA Documents — NACPM
- Professional Standards & Competencies — NACPM