



DEIDRE DEGRADO

Certified Professional Midwife

Motivation

As a midwife, I am deeply passionate about women-centered healthcare and informed consent practices. My journey began with personal tragedy—the loss of my only sister during labor in 1991—a moment that shaped my commitment to improving maternal health outcomes. This drive led me to serve on the KS Maternal Mortality Review Committee, where I advocate for reducing maternal mortality and enhancing care quality.

This drive motivates me to educate and support physiological birth whenever possible while advocating for medical interventions when necessary. I strive to be emotionally present and to champion informed consent. From 2018 to the end of 2023, I served on the Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee, which aims to reduce maternal mortality and enhance the quality and equity of care. I deeply appreciate and support the committee's efforts to improve outcomes for mothers in Kansas.

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Education & Certifications

- US MERA Midwifery Bridge Certificate, 2018
- Certified Professional Midwife Certification, 2013–Present
- NARM Preceptor, 2013–Present
- Neonatal Resuscitation, 1995–Present
- Institute of Basic Life Principles Midwifery Participant, 2003
- North American Registry of Midwives PEP and Apprenticeship Training, 1995–2002
- Midwives College of Utah Preceptor/Field Instructor, 2017
- Texas Association of Midwives Member, 2015–2018
- ATM Midwifery Training Program student and preceptor
- Lindenwood College, St. Charles, MO, 1986–1988
- Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs, CO, 1985–1986 (General Education)

Present
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2003

Present
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2013

2013
–
2003

2002
–
1991

Community Work

- Wichita Birth Alliance Member, 1994–Present
- KMA Vice President, multiple terms over 20 years
- Panel Speaker
- Maternal Mortality with Maddie Ogden, January 2018, Wichita, KS
- WBA “Why Not Home,” 2017, Wichita, KS
- Educated local hospitals on BEST Practices for home-to-hospital transfers
- KS Maternal Mortality Review Committee Member, 2018–2023



Work Experience

Owner, DDD Ltd – Wichita Birth Assistance

- Lead the overall operations of a dynamic, successful midwifery practice consisting of three full-time midwives, doulas, support staff, and interns.
- Develop and maintain relationships with healthcare providers, hospitals, community members, and support groups.
- Foster communication and teamwork among staff, serving a large community of women seeking natural birth and well-woman care.
- Ensure patient safety, maintain financial health, and promote quality, satisfaction-driven female and newborn-centered healthcare.

Responsibilities include:

- Strategic planning, policies, and procedures
- Hiring and training staff
- Implementing and developing marketing strategies

Certified Professional Midwife

- Serve as the primary healthcare provider for low-risk women seeking out-of-hospital births.
- Provide antenatal and postnatal care, deliver babies, and educate women, partners, and families.
- Utilize diagnostic equipment, labs, sonograms, and medical evaluations to ensure quality care.
- Communicate with doctors and other providers as needed, evaluate risk factors, and coordinate emergency management and hospital transfers when necessary.

Direct Entry Midwife

- Provided comprehensive care for low-risk women during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum periods.
- Conducted medical examinations, evaluations, and referrals while managing emergencies and hospital transfers.

Practice Manager, DeGrado Chiropractic

- Managed overall administration and supervision of the chiropractic practice.
- Hired and trained office staff, conducted performance reviews, and oversaw supplies and financial operations.
- Maintained patient satisfaction and education while developing marketing strategies.

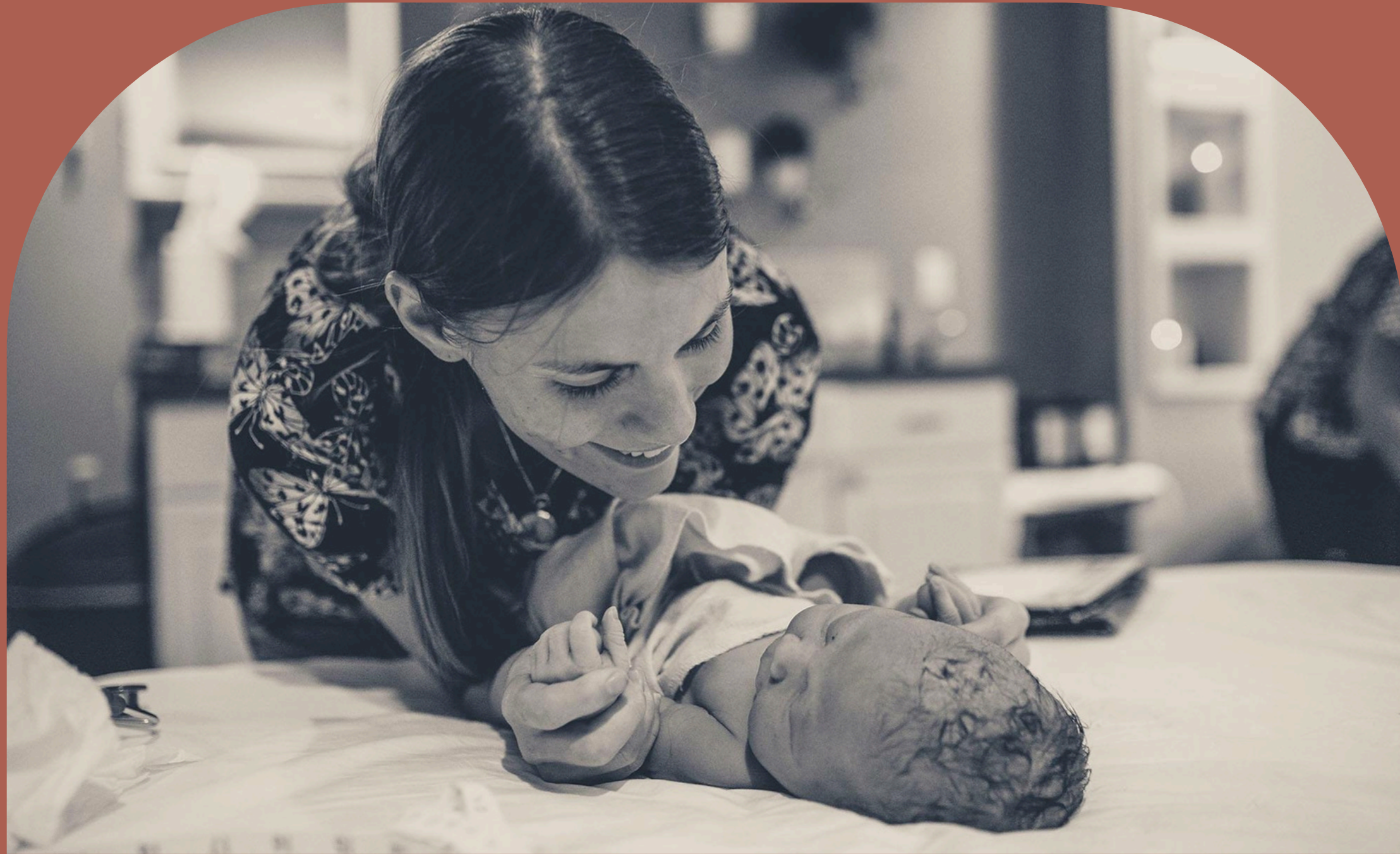
Private Investigator and Genealogical Researcher

1986–1988 (and occasionally as a hobby currently)

Skills

- US MERA Bridge Certified Professional Midwife
- Excellent Communicator
- Strong Observational Skills
- Intentional Team Worker
- NARM Approved Preceptor

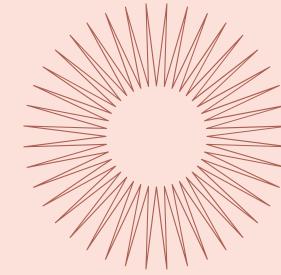
The Certified Professional Midwife (CPM): Role, Function, Education, and Certification



Increasing Awareness and Promoting Education for Collaborative Maternal and Infant Care



Introduction



Objective:

To raise awareness and promote education about the role, function, training, and certification of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs).

Relevance:

Enhancing understanding of CPMs' contributions to maternal and infant care to foster informed collaboration and decision-making.

SPEAKER: Deidre DeGrado, CPM

CEO, Wichita Birth Assistance

Consultant, Midwifery Business Consultation

Former Member, Kansas Maternal Mortality Committee

Midwifery Bridge Certification

My Story:

As a midwife, I am deeply passionate about women-centered healthcare and informed consent. My journey began with personal tragedy—the loss of my only sister during labor in 1991—a moment that started my commitment to improving maternal health outcomes.

I am dedicated to educating and supporting physiological birth while advocating for necessary medical interventions. I strive to be emotionally present and to uphold informed consent in all aspects of care. From 2018 to 2023, I served on the Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee and remain deeply supportive of its mission to improve maternal health in Kansas.



What Is a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM)?

Definition:

A CPM is a professional midwife certified by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM).

Focus:

wellness oriented, evidence-based care, primarily in out-of-hospital settings such as home births or birth centers.

Scope of Practice:

The scope of practice for a CPM varies by state and is defined by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) and state regulations. Generally, CPMs provide care in home and birth center settings for low-risk pregnancies and focus on physiological birth with emergency preparedness.

Key Responsibilities:

- Pregnancy Care: Prenatal assessments, screenings, fetal monitoring, and education on nutrition and well-being.
- Labor & Birth: Monitoring labor progress, assisting in natural birth, managing pain, and performing emergency procedures like neonatal resuscitation.
- Postpartum & Newborn Care: Immediate and follow-up care for mother and baby, breastfeeding support, and education on recovery.

Limited Prescriptive Authority (Varies by State)

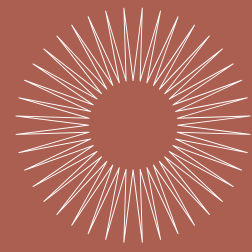
Some states allow CPMs to administer:

- Anti-hemorrhagic medications (e.g., oxytocin, misoprostol)
- IV fluids for stabilization
- Local anesthetics for perineal repair
- Oxygen therapy for resuscitation

Limitations:

- CPMs manage low-risk pregnancies and do not handle high-risk conditions like preeclampsia or multiple gestation.
- They cannot perform C-sections or surgical interventions.
- Prescriptive authority, ability to order ultrasounds, and medical collaboration depend on state laws.

Roles and Responsibilities of CPMs



- Prenatal Care: Holistic care with a focus on health education, nutrition, and preparation for childbirth.
- Labor and Birth: Monitoring maternal and fetal well-being, facilitating natural labor, and ensuring safe delivery.
 - Postpartum Care: Supporting breastfeeding, assessing newborn health, and guiding maternal recovery.
- Educational Role: Empowering families through informed choice and active participation in their care.





Education and Training Pathway

Educational Pathways:

- Complete midwifery school, apprenticeship, or blended program
- Core studies: anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, cultural competence, embryology, fetal development, and maternal/infant nutrition.

Clinical Training:

- Hands-on experience under preceptor supervision
- Training in out of hospital settings.
- Skills include prenatal screening and risk assessment, physical exams and monitoring (e.g., fetal heart tones, blood pressure etc), labor support, suturing and perineal repair, newborn care, newborn physical exam, newborn resuscitation, immediately and follow-up care, postpartum recovery and maternal health monitoring, and emergency management/ complications.

C e r t i f i c a t i o n P r o c e s s

Administered by the North American
Registry of Midwives (NARM).

R e q u i r e m e n t s :

1. Accredited education or Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP).
2. Documented clinical experience, including 55 births as a primary midwife under supervision.
3. Passing the NARM Written Examination.

C o n t i n u i n g E d u c a t i o n :

1. Regular updates to maintain certification and stay informed on best practices.
2. Neonatal Resuscitation Program
3. 25 CEUs
4. 5 Peer Review Hours
5. Cultural competency



Legal Recognition and Practice

Licensure:

- CPMs are licensed to practice in 36 states and the District of Columbia.
- Specific scope of practice varies by state, with some requiring additional licensing or certification.

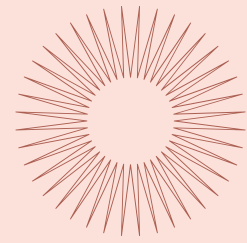
Role in Education:

- Increasing public understanding of safe, out-of-hospital birth options.

Collaborative Care:

- CPMs often work alongside nurses and physicians in integrated care models.

A s p e c t | C P M | C N M



E d u c a t i o n | M i d w i f e r y s c h o o l s , a p p r e n t i c e s h i p s |

N u r s i n g d e g r e e + m i d w i f e r y t r a i n i n g

S e t t i n g s | O u t - o f - h o s p i t a l | H o s p i t a l a n d c l i n i c a l
s e t t i n g s

C e r t i f i c a t i o n B o d y | N A R M | A m e r i c a n M i d w i f e r y
C e r t i f i c a t i o n B o a r d

F o c u s | N a t u r a l , p h y s i o l o g i c a l b i r t h | B r o a d e r s c o p e ,
i n c l u d i n g m e d i c a l i z e d c a r e



Benefits of Promoting Awareness of CPMs

1. Improved Outcomes: Lower rates of cesarean sections and medical interventions.
2. Cost Efficiency: Reduction in hospital-related expenses for low-risk pregnancies.
3. Patient-Centered Care: High levels of personalized care and autonomy.
4. Education: Empowering communities with knowledge about safe and diverse birth options.



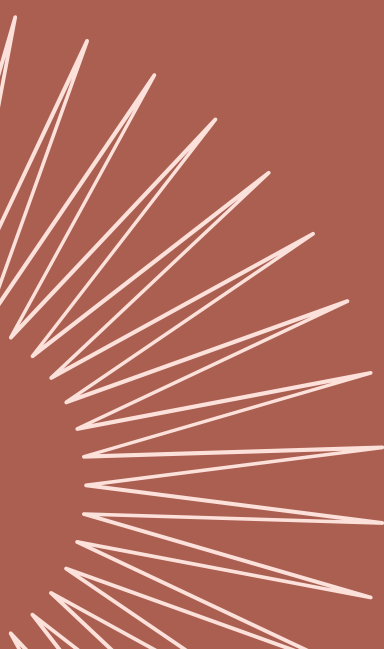
Challenges & Opportunities

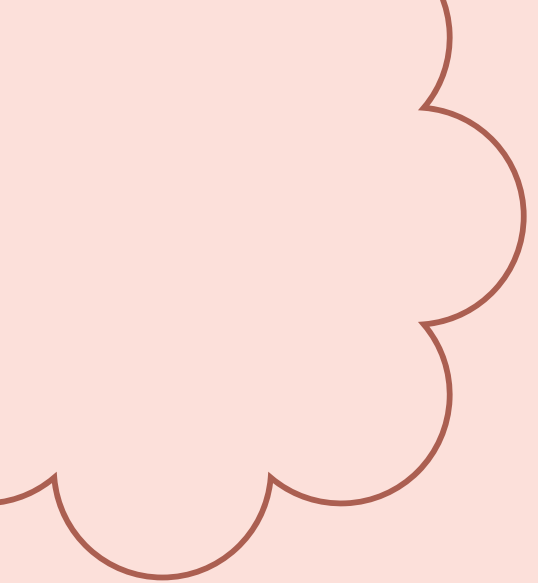


Challenges:

- Limited public awareness of midwifery's role and scope in women's healthcare.
- Scope, definition, limitation, discussions.
- Variability in legal recognition and licensure across states.

Opportunities:

- Educating healthcare providers and the public about midwifery.
 - Strengthening collaboration between CPMs, nurses, physician and other providers to optimize maternal care.
 - Working together to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for all communities.
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C o n c l u s i o n
&
D i s c u s s i o n

K e y T a k e a w a y s :

- I m p r o v e m a t e r n a l a n d i n f a n t m o r t a l i t y r a t e s a n d p r i o r i t i z e w o m e n c e n t e r e d c a r e .
- C P M s p l a y a v i t a l r o l e i n p r o v i d i n g s a f e , e v i d e n c e - b a s e d , a n d p e r s o n a l i z e d c a r e f o r l o w - r i s k p r e g n a n c i e s .
- I n c r e a s i n g a w a r e n e s s a n d e d u c a t i o n a b o u t C P M s c a n p r o m o t e c o l l a b o r a t i o n a n d i m p r o v e m a t e r n a l h e a l t h o u t c o m e s .

C o m m e n t s a n d Q u e s t i o n s ?