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Direct Entry Midwives

Direct Entry Midwives

A licensed direct entry midwife (LDM) supervises the conduct and labor of childbirth, advises the parent on the progress of childbirth, and renders prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care. Licensed direct entry midwives provide care in the home, in birthing centers, clinics, and as teachers at midwifery schools.

Licensure is voluntary; unlicensed midwives may practice in Oregon. However, Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 687.415 allows reimbursement under the Oregon Health Plan only if an LDM provides birthing assistance. Only LDMs can legally administer certain legend, or prescription, drugs and devices.



Qualifications

- An applicant for licensure must have completed the minimum core competencies adapted from the 1997 Edition of the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA).
- The applicant must have also participated in 25 assisted deliveries, 25 deliveries in which the applicant was the primary care provider, 100 prenatal care visits, 25 newborn examinations and 40 postnatal examinations.
- The applicant must possess current CPR certification for adults and newborns, required education in approved legend drugs and devices and a written plan for emergency transport identifying care provided to a mother and infant should complications arise during delivery.
- A passing score on the written examination administered by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) is also required.
- *Licensure by equivalency:* An applicant currently licensed to practice direct entry midwifery in another state or who has been licensed within the past three years and who has not had a license suspended or revoked is eligible for licensure.

Continuing Education: Midwives must complete 45 hours of continuing education every three years to qualify for license renewal. A midwife attending fewer than five births in the previous year is required to take an additional 10 hours of continuing education. Completion of an additional 12.5 hours of continuing education in legend drugs and devices is also required.

Authorizing Laws & Rules: This program exists under the regulatory oversight of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Board of Direct Entry Midwifery profession-specific statutes (ORS 687.405-687.495 and 687.895 and 687.991) and rules (OAR 332, Divisions 015-030) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DEM