

Board of Direct Entry Midwifery

The **Board of Direct Entry Midwifery** consists of eight members appointed by the governor: four licensed direct entry midwives, two certified nurse midwives, one public member and one physician licensed under state law involved at the time of appointment in obstetrical care or education. All appointments are subject to confirmation by the Oregon Senate. Terms in office are four years beginning July 1, or until a qualified successor is appointed.

OHLA

The **Oregon Health Licensing Agency** (OHLA) is a state department of licensing and regulation. OHLA is unique among Oregon's regulatory agencies in that it oversees multiple professions under a central agency administration.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.oregon.gov/OHLA.

Consumer Protection

If you can't resolve a problem or issue with a practitioner, you may file a complaint.

Contact OHLA at **(503) 378-8667** or e-mail us at ohla.info@state.or.us. We respond to every complaint and have the authority to take disciplinary action against licensees.

Consumer's Bill of Rights

Consumers receiving services by Oregon professionals authorized to practice by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) have a legal right to:

- ✦ Receive competent professional services
- ✦ Verify the names, titles and credentials of professionals providing services
- ✦ Receive clear explanations of the services offered and cost for the services
- ✦ Refuse any services offered
- ✦ Receive information on complaints that have resulted in final action
- ✦ File a complaint with OHLA regarding a practitioner, facility, or an unlicensed/uncertified person
- ✦ Request reasonable accommodations to access professional services as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act
- ✦ Be treated with courtesy and respect
- ✦ Have service options and consequences explained

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 320
Salem, OR 97301-1287

☎ 503-378-8667 • FAX 503-370-9004

✉ ohla.info@state.or.us

www.oregon.gov/OHLA

OHLA_DEM_Consumer_07_09

Board of Direct Entry Midwifery



DIRECT ENTRY MIDWIVES

Consumer Information



OREGON
HEALTH
LICENSING
AGENCY

MIDWIFERY

Licensed Midwives

A **licensed direct entry midwife (LDM)** provides care to women and newborns throughout the childbearing cycle. Care, including before, during and after the birth, is usually provided in the home or a birthing center rather than in a hospital setting.

Licensure is voluntary. Unlicensed midwives may also practice in Oregon. They are *not* subject to state regulatory standards and requirements.

Licensed midwives may legally administer certain prescription (also known as “legend”) drugs and devices.

Oregon law allows reimbursement under the **Oregon Health Plan** to licensed midwives. Check with your insurance provider for details.

LDM Qualifications

LDM applicants must have the following to gain licensure:

- Passing score on the North American Registry of Midwives examination
- Documented practical experience, including participation in at least 25 primary and 25 assisted deliveries in an out-of-hospital setting
- Current certification in CPR for adults and newborns
- Legend drugs and devices education

Informed Consent

LDMs must provide prospective clients with a disclosure statement that includes:

- Philosophy of care
- Training and education
- Clinical experience
- Services provided to clients
- Types of emergency medications and equipment used
- Responsibilities of the mother and family
- Fees for services, including financial arrangements
- Malpractice coverage (LDMs are *not* legally required to hold coverage)

Emergency Transport

LDMs must maintain and discuss a plan for emergency transport to a hospital in case complications arise during the birth. The plan must include provisions for physician support and hospital including location and telephone numbers.

Use of Titles

The professional title of regulated midwives varies from state to state. In Oregon, only licensed midwives may refer to themselves as licensed direct entry midwives, or LDMs.

Nurse midwife nurse practitioners are licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) at 971-673-0685 or at www.oregon.gov/OSBN.

Drugs & Devices

LDMs may legally administer certain prescription (also known as “legend”) medications and devices to assist with pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care. LDMs must be trained in the use of equipment and medications.



State law grants LDMs the ability to provide medications such as:

- Anti-hemorrhagics (to prevent bleeding)
- Medical oxygen
- Local anesthetics
- Intravenous fluid replacement solutions

LDMs may administer the following to newborns:

- Antibiotic ointment to prevent eye infections
- Vitamin K to prevent hemorrhaging
- Medical oxygen

Oregon law also permits the use of equipment such as syringes, IV drips, catheters, sutures and resuscitation equipment such as bag-valve-mask sets.

Did you know?

LDMs attended 601 out of 49,089 births in Oregon in 2006.

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services, Center for Health Statistics