

There are two kinds of midwives licensed in the State of Alaska: Certified Nurse Midwives, or CNMs, and Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, or CDMs. The latter’s name derives from the hands-on apprenticeship-style training that they do to directly enter the field instead of passing through a university. The table below illustrates some of the main differences between these two types of providers:

	<b>CNMs</b>	<b>CDMs</b>
Educational requirements	BSN or RN, and Masters-level Nursing or Midwifery degree	Must be 18 and have high-school diploma.
Training & certification process	University coursework and exams for the aforementioned degrees, clinical preceptorship, CNM board exams with certification by the AMCB.	A 2-4 year apprenticeship under a licensed preceptor (can be CDM or CNM), coursework through a MEAC-accredited program, and an exam through NARM for certification.
Where they <i>can</i> practice	Hospitals, Birth Centers, or homes	Birth Centers and homes.
Well-women or GYN care they can do	CNMs can do GYN/well-women care to women of all ages as Advanced Nurse Practitioners, and as such, can diagnose and treat a variety of diseases and conditions.	None.
Prescriptive Authority?	CNMs can prescribe medications in Alaska and many other states	None.
What tests can they order? What testing can they do?	CNMs can order any testing you need from labs or imaging providers, and can perform & interpret non-stress tests and ultrasounds, as well as diagnostic tests such as colposcopy and biopsies with the proper training.	CDMs can order any testing you need from labs or imaging providers. They can perform limited ultrasounds if trained, but not all payers will reimburse them for these additional skills.
What kinds of pregnant women can they see as patients?	CNMs can take care of all low-risk women and many high-risk women as well. Some higher-risk conditions such as twins need to be co-managed with physicians.	Low-risk women only.
Can they do VBAC deliveries?	Yes, in hospitals or homes. The State of Alaska does not allow VBAC deliveries in birth centers.	No.
Which payers pay them?	It is mandated on the federal level that payers must reimburse CNMs. While some employer-funded plans can choose not to, the vast majority cover them	Most private payers and Medicaid cover them, but Tricare, Blue Cross FEP, GEHA, AK VA, and some employer-funded plans do not.
Can they obtain malpractice insurance?	Yes, if they choose to. This is a requirement of hospital privileges and of being in insurance networks.	Yes, if they choose to. This is a requirement of being in insurance networks.