



SB 1133 SUMMARY

Nurse Practitioners/ Nurse Midwives

Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP) are among the categories of nurses titled Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who have met additional educational and training requirements and have expanded scopes of practice. Under the present statutes, Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) are treated as a subset of CNPs even though they have different education, training and scope of practice. Statutes and rules regulating CNPs and CNMs set forth their scope of practice and provide for authority for their own practice with consultations and referrals to appropriate healthcare professionals. This bill does not expand CNPs and CNMs existing scope of practice as set forth in rule and in practice.

Issues

1. The existing statutes contain a consultation and referral requirement “on an as-needed basis” and includes use of the term “collaboration”. This has led to confusion, particularly by insurance companies and health plans about the nature of full practice authority.
2. Although nurse midwives have been recognized as providers of health care for women and healthy newborns for a century as well as in existing rule, their unique practice is not recognized by title in Arizona statutes.

Provisions

- Removal of term “collaboration”.
- Clarification of requirement of consultation and referral to appropriate healthcare professional including a definition of appropriate healthcare professional.
- Creation of a title for Certified Nurse Midwives separate from that of Nurse Practitioners.
- No changes in existing scopes of practice for CNPs and CNMs.



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