

# LICENSED MIDWIVES IN WASHINGTON STATE

Washington's Licensed Midwives (LMs) are part of our healthcare system



**3500+ births per year** (more than 4 percent of all births) are attended by the **175+ licensed midwives** in Washington State.



Work in the state's 20+ licensed **freestanding birth centers and in homes.**



**Can accept most insurance,** including Medicaid. Liability insurance is available (1M/3M policies).



Licensed and regulated by the **Washington State Department of Health.**



Attend an accredited **3-year midwifery education program or the equivalent.** Programs meet or exceed requirements set by the International Confederation of Midwives and the North American Registry of Midwives.

Must attend a minimum of **100 births** under supervision during clinical training.

## Licensed Midwives Provide Comprehensive, Family-Centered Care



## Q&A

### WHO CAN LMs CARE FOR?

LMs are autonomous providers who typically care for low-risk parents and babies during the normal childbearing cycle.

### HOW IS RISK EVALUATED, AND WHEN DO LMs CONSIDER TRANSFER OF CARE?

Professional midwifery associations in Washington developed comprehensive guidance outlining conditions that a midwife may encounter in practice for which discussion, consultation, or transfer of care is indicated.

### WHO DECIDES WHEN A CLIENT SHOULD TRANSFER?

Like all health care providers, LMs have an ethical obligation to engage in a process of shared decision-making with their clients.

# Licensed Midwives in Washington State Provide Safe, Family Centered Care Within An Integrated Maternity Care System

## Learn More:

- [Birth Outcomes for Planned Home and Freestanding Birth Center Births in Washington State](#)
- [Medication Access and Midwifery Integration: An Example of Community Midwifery Advocacy for Access in Washington State, USA](#)
- [Are Perinatal Quality Collaboratives Collaborating Enough? How Including All Birth Settings Can Drive Needed Improvement in the United States Maternity Care System](#)
- [Mapping Integration of Midwives Across the United States: Impact on Access, Equity, and Outcomes](#)



Smooth Transitions™ is a Washington state-based quality improvement program enhancing the safety of hospital transfers.

## Mission:

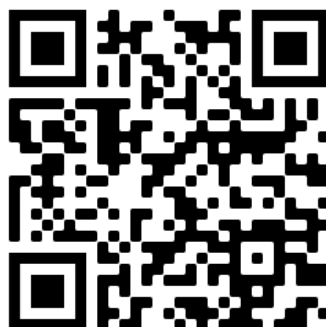
To address our shared responsibility for improving hospital transfers from planned community-based births to promote greater patient safety and satisfaction.

## Goals:

- Improve the safety and efficiency of the transfer process through the establishment of system-wide protocols
- Collect and analyze transfer outcome data for the purpose of quality improvement
- Build greater collaboration between community-based midwives, EMS, and hospital care team
- Enhance the patient experience of care when transfers occur

**GET THE LINKS FROM THIS HANDOUT:**

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**ENDORSED BY:**

MIDWIVES'  
ASSOCIATION  
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