



Strengthening Midwifery Globally

PLANNING AND RESOURCES FOR MIDWIFERY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Position statement

BACKGROUND

According to the ICM *Philosophy and Model of Midwifery Care*, birth is a normal physiological process, yet pregnancy and childbirth are profound experiences, which carry significant meaning to the woman, her family and the community. Midwives are the most appropriate care providers to attend women during childbirth. Midwifery care empowers women to assume responsibility for their health and that of their families.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The International Confederation of Midwives believes that midwives, through their close association with women and their families, are in a unique position to know the reality of their health care needs and to define the resources required for the provision of quality services, in consultation with women.

POSITION

All women in their reproductive years should have access to a midwife in pregnancy, childbirth and the early postpartum period. The access may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child care.

Within a country, midwives should be represented at all levels where policies and strategic plans are being developed to address issues concerned with the reproductive health of women, but especially those linked to the achievement of Safe Motherhood.

Midwives based in clinical settings should be called upon to contribute to the decisionmaking process applied to the allocation of limited financial resources for their service at local and national level. In association with their colleagues from other disciplines, they should strive to achieve an equitable distribution of those resources, so as to address the needs of most women seeking or requiring care.

GUIDING STATEMENT TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS:

Member Associations are urged to ensure that their members have an awareness of the cost of care and are able to advocate for appropriate services when necessary. They are also encouraged to pursue initiatives which encourage governments, health care agencies and non-governmental organisations to accept this policy as the basis for their own decision-making process.

RELATED ICM DOCUMENTS

- ICM Definition of the Midwife (2005)

- Making pregnancy safer: the critical role of the skilled attendant, a joint statement by WHO, ICM and FIGO. Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Geneva, 2004.
- ICM Philosophy and Model of Midwifery Care (2005)

OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Mother Baby Package: Implementation of Safe Motherhood in Countries, 1994, WHO.
- Definition of Reproductive Health, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994
- World Health Assembly, Resolution Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery, 1996.

Adopted at Brisbane Council meeting, 2005

Due for next review 2011