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March 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Midwives, Midwife Apprentices

FROM: Nancy E. Maertens, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Provider Wide Exception - Alternative Process for Initial Licensure of Midwives.

Section F. of Regulation 61-24, Standards for Licensing Midwives, states that "An applicant for licensure as a midwife must pass a qualifying examination, consisting of written and oral portions, approved by the Department."

In the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by midwife candidates and yet do not compromise the quality of their preparation for licensure, it has been determined that an alternative process will be considered as acceptable.

As an alternative to the requirements detailed in Sections C., E. and F. of R.61-24, midwife candidates may utilize the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) and skills verification established by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM). Upon successful completion of the PEP and skills verification, NARM will issue the candidate a letter of completion. Department notification by NARM that a candidate has completed PEP and skills verification may be accepted in lieu of the oral examination administered by the Department. Information concerning PEP and skills verification may be found on the NARM website at www.NARM.org.

This alternative allows a candidate to pursue national certification and South Carolina licensure using the same process with no duplication of effort for the candidate.

Individuals who seek South Carolina midwife licensure and possess a current Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential from NARM may apply for a South Carolina license with no additional testing.

Midwife candidates may continue to utilize the process for licensure as detailed in Sections C., E. and F. of R.61-24, if the candidate chooses that option.

This exception applies to any midwife candidate pursuing licensure by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of this exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Michell Hatcher at (803) 545-4968.

NEM/ejc

cc: Pam Dukes, Deputy Commissioner, DHEC Michell Hatcher, DHEC
Dennis Gibbs, DHEC

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Health Regulation

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