



Educational Pathways for CPMs in CO

Summer 2023 Community Learning
Series



30 years of DEM regulation in CO

1993 

2023 

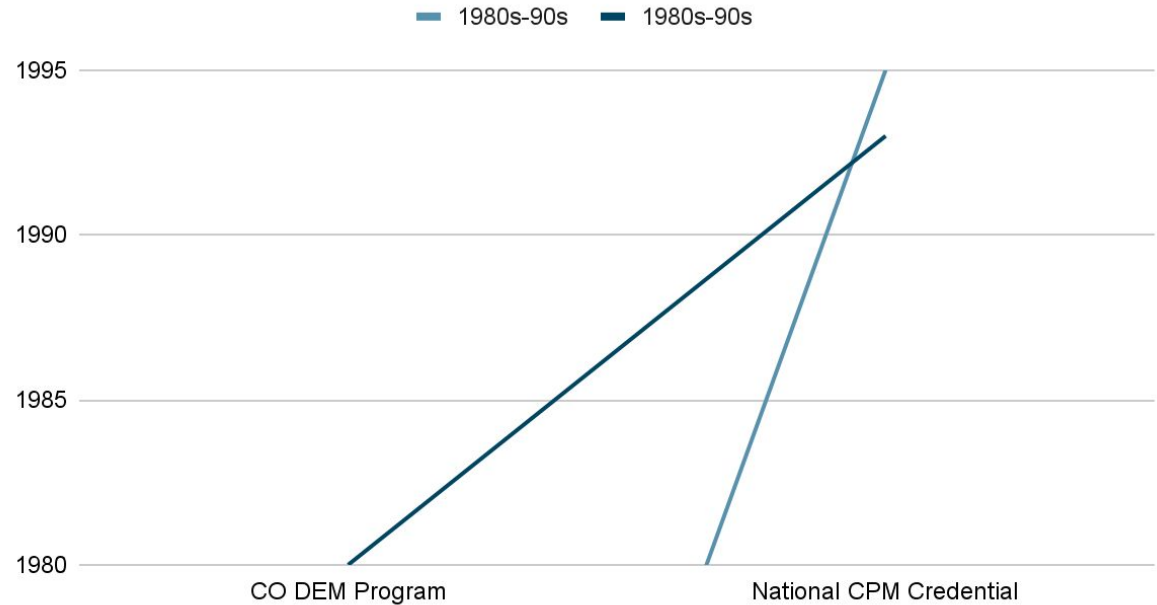
If you missed “CPMs are Licensed in CO” find the recording on EC’s Events page:

<https://www.elephantcircle.net/events-1/2023/6/15/direct-entry-midwifery-summer-2023-community-learning-series>

DEM/CPM

Colorado's
direct-entry
midwifery law
was created
before the CPM
credential was
created

Evolving together



CO Law Requires the CPM credential

But, because it didn't exist yet when the law was written, statutory language does not name the CPM credential

Title 12

Division of Professions and Occupations

Article 225

Direct Entry Midwives

Since the beginning CO's DEM law required:

- A competency exam + proof of education

At first, there wasn't a national credential, so the DORA director evaluated applications to see if they met this requirement.



Exam language in statute remains unchanged

(4) To qualify to register, a direct-entry midwife must have successfully completed an examination evaluated and approved by the director as an appropriate test to measure competency in the practice of direct-entry midwifery, which examination must have been developed by a person or entity other than the director or the division and the acquisition of which shall require no expenditure of state funds. The national registry examination administered by the Midwives Alliance of North America, or its successor, must be among those evaluated by the director. The director is authorized to approve any existing test meeting all the criteria set forth in this subsection (4). In addition to successfully completing the

“....an examination evaluated and approved by the director”

a. The NARM exam is the only one approved.

Accredited education required

(5) Effective July 1, 2003, in order to be deemed qualified to register, a direct-entry midwife must have graduated from an accredited midwifery educational program or obtained a substantially equivalent education approved by the director. The educational requirement does not apply to direct-entry midwives who have registered with the division before July 1, 2003.

“...graduated from an accredited midwifery educational program or obtained a substantially equivalent education approved by the director.”

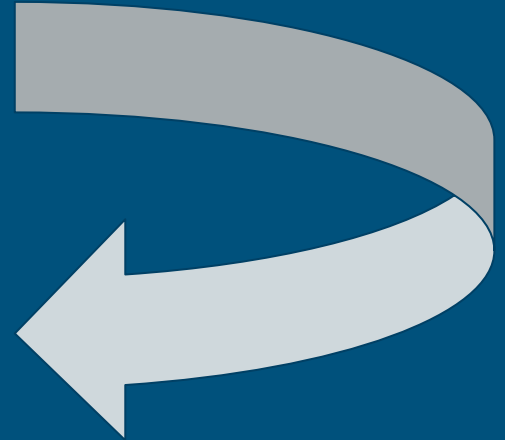
- a. They accept the CPM credential as substantially equivalent

The CPM credential itself is accredited, and it is accredited by the same organization that accredits the CNM and CM credentials, the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

Colorado requires the CPM credential

The only way to meet the requirements of passing the NARM exam is to go through the NARM application process for the CPM credential.

So, Colorado requires the CPM because they don't have another pathway to the exam.



Two paths to the CPM credential

To get the credential people can either graduate from an accredited MEAC school (MEAC is accredited by the US Department of Education) or take the “PEP” process which involves hands-on-learning in community, like a “residency,” but in the community birth setting.



Are there gaps?

The Bridge Certificate came out of the US MERA meetings: “to support new legislation for the licensure of CPMs.”

Colorado had required **accredited** education for **12 years** already at that time, and had a midwifery statute for 22 years. So **this was not applicable to Colorado.**

The statement is explicit that, “At this time, this language does not apply to states where there are existing statutes for CPM licensure.”



Questions & Discussion



Next Up in the Summer 2023 Community Learning Series

Resolving Conflicts in National and Global Standards - August 18, 9-10am