



July 24, 2007

Dear Midwife:

TriWest is writing you in response to questions regarding TRICARE coverage of midwives practicing in the state of Alaska. Alaska state statutes allow a midwife to practice as a Direct Entry Midwife. A Direct Entry Midwife is not required to have a nursing license, does not require physician supervision, does not require certification by the American College of Nurse Midwives and is not permitted to prescribe medications. They are required to pass the examination prepared and graded by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM).

TRICARE is a federal program and generally preempts state law, unless state law requirements exceed the federal minimum. The Direct Entry Midwives examination as defined under Alaska state statutes does not meet or exceed the federal TRICARE criteria listed below.

The TRICARE Policy Manual Chapter 3, Section 3.11, states:

“A. A certified nurse midwife may provide covered care independent of physician referral and supervision, provided the nurse midwife is:

1. Licensed, when required, by the local licensing agency for the jurisdiction in which the care is provided; and
2. Certified by the American College of Nurse Midwives. To receive certification, a candidate must be a registered nurse who has completed successfully an educational program approved by the American College of Nurse Midwives, and passed the American College of Nurse Midwives National Certification Examination.

B. The services of a registered nurse who is not a certified nurse midwife may be authorized only when the patient has been referred for care by a licensed physician and a licensed physician provides continuing supervision of the course of care.

***Exclusion***

A lay midwife who is neither a certified nurse midwife nor a registered nurse is ***not an authorized provider***, regardless of whether the services rendered may otherwise be covered.” (Emphasis added.)

A provider licensed as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) through the American College of Nurse Midwives would qualify as a TRICARE provider.

In light of the above, our records indicate that you are a non-authorized provider for the TRICARE program as defined by TRICARE Policy Manual. Therefore, please ensure that you do not accept or treat TRICARE patients. If you are currently treating TRICARE patients, please direct your patients to call 1-888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378) to arrange for their transfer to a TRICARE authorized provider.

TriWest will also attempt to notify beneficiaries known to be currently seeking maternity care services from non TRICARE-authorized providers; should a TRICARE beneficiary choose to remain under your care, please note that TRICARE will be unable to pay your claims.

Should your licensure meet TRICARE requirements in the future, please complete a TRICARE certification packet found on [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com), Provider Connection, Find a Form. Once the “Certified Nurse Midwife Certification” form is completed, it should be sent to Wisconsin Physicians Service as directed on the form for review and processing.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- If in the Fairbanks area, 907-356-2417, ext. 32001
- If in the Anchorage area, 907-753-7040, ext. 32104
- Or if elsewhere in Alaska, 907-273-8709

Thank you for your cooperation.

TriWest Provider Services Department