



January 18, 2024

To:

American Association of Birth Centers
Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers
North American Registry of Midwives
American College of Nurse-Midwives
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
Birth Center Equity
Elephant Circle

Thank you for sending your concerns regarding the availability of neonatal resuscitation training for the midwife community. The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Steering Committee (SC) has taken the time to diligently consider your requests. As we strive to ensure that every birth is attended by someone trained in NRP, we acknowledge the importance of providing neonatal resuscitation training to midwives who care for newborns at delivery and aim to provide neonatal resuscitation training that is most effective for all.

We agree that it is important to ensure that the NRP SC is comprised of members, liaisons, and consultants that are representative of all NRP providers and instructors, including midwives. In order to include the voice of midwives on the NRP SC, we would like to extend an invitation to a midwife representative from the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) to serve as an NRP SC midwife liaison. ACNM sets the standard for excellence in midwifery education and practice in the United States and strengthens the capacity of midwives in other countries globally which aligns with the NRP mission. We look forward to the inclusion of this liaison to provide representation from the midwife community.

Given the significant percentage of births attended by midwives and in alignment with the NRP's mission, it is imperative to ensure that midwives receive appropriate NRP training. In accordance with current NRP policy, midwives are able to become NRP Providers but only qualify to be NRP Instructors if they work in the hospital setting. To improve access to NRP training to more midwives, the criteria for NRP Instructors will be expanded to include accredited birth centers as meeting a prerequisite location of professional/clinical care. In addition, clinical type will be expanded to include Certified Nurse Midwives and Certified Midwives. We believe that the expansion of the instructor criteria to include accredited birth centers and Certified Nurse Midwives/Certified Midwives will support our shared vision of training more midwives.

The AAP and the American Heart Association advocate for two care providers present at every birth, at least one of whom has the primary responsibility to care for the newborn infant and is trained in NRP. It is essential that all midwives in all practice locations, especially those who may be the only practitioner present at delivery, be trained in NRP. Advanced NRP is appropriate for midwives, especially those that may be called upon to provide advanced care. We look forward to collaborating with each of your organizations to advocate for all midwives to be best equipped to care for newborns at delivery. We will

also work with you to best communicate these changes in Instructor criteria as mentioned above. Lastly, we look forward to collaborating with your organizations and expanding the reach of NRP training for midwives. We are working on an implementation timeline and will be reaching out to ACNM to identify an NRP SC liaison and will be in touch with each organization on how we can spread the word to the midwife community. Thank you for your efforts in ensuring optimal neonatal resuscitation training for the midwife community.

With Gratitude,

The NRP Steering Committee

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