

# Washington

## Midwifery Advisory Committee Newsletter

### Summer 2019

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### IMPORTANT PRACTICE REMINDER

By law, Washington state licensed midwives are required to have a written plan for consultation with other health care providers. [RCW 18.50.108](#). The midwife may consult with a wide range of licensed health care providers as needed for the care of the patient; including, but not limited to, the following: more experienced licensed midwives, certified nurse midwives (CNM), genetic counselors, dentists, physicians, etc.

However, in the event of “significant deviations from normal in either the mother or the newborn” during the midwife’s care or assessment of the patients, the midwife is legally required to consult with a **physician**. [RCW 18.50.010](#). Consultation with no other licensed professional will meet this duty to consult.

#### License Statistics (as of May 2019)

##### Licensed / Pending Midwives

Licensed	181
Pending	12

### What is the HEAL-WA fee and why do I have to pay it?

Washington state law requires members of certain professions to pay an annual fee to use an online healthcare resources library through the University of Washington’s HEAL-WA portal at [HEALWA.org](#). The portal gives access to professional journals, research and other clinical information at lower costs than practitioners would pay for these resources individually.

The law doesn’t allow individual licensees to opt out of paying the HEAL-WA fee. Also, the law doesn’t allow people in other professions to pay the fee to gain access to the HEAL-WA portal.

Starting in 2012, some practitioners who hold licenses in multiple professions began paying only one HEAL-WA fee instead of two or more fees as in years past.

#### Committee Members

**Kat Barron, LM**  
**Alex Hamling, MD**  
**Robin DeRegt, MD**  
**Karen Swift, CNM**  
**Vivianne Fischer, LM**  
**April Haugen, LM**  
**Margaret Ostervold, Public Member**

### Midwifery Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

The remaining meeting dates for the Midwifery Advisory Committee are September 11, 2019 and December 4, 2019, both will be held in Kent. Updated meeting information can be found on the program’s [webpage](#).

## Why do I need to chart?

Charts are legal medical records that communicate crucial information. Accurate charting is critical to evaluating the patient's health status, and to determine future care, treatment methods and reimbursement. Good record keeping helps to improve client outcomes by facilitating shared care among other health care professionals and facilitating continuity of care. These records also document the management of all aspects of midwifery care.

Often during Department of Health investigations, charts are found to have missing, incomplete, or illegible information; including:

- documenting assessments including vital signs through all phases of care
- treatment and care decisions
- informed choice discussions including phone conversations
- compliance with the standards of practice of midwifery

As with every aspect of quality patient care, if it is not charted, there's no legal record of it.

Remember, records represent the care that was delivered, and may become the basis for evidence of care in an investigation. Make your charts a complete and easy-to-read record.



## Renewal Requirements and Fees

- Submit the Consultation, Emergency Transfer and Transport form. You may fill this form out electronically online or download, print and mail it in.
- Data submission on all courses of care for every mother and newborn under your care to a department-approved research organization. The department-approved research organizations are [Midwives Alliance of North American \(MANA stats\)](#) and [American Association of Birth Centers \(AABC\)](#).
- Participation in a peer review program. At least five clinical cases every two years are required.
- Thirty hours of continuing education (CE) every three years:
  - ◆ A minimum of 25 hours must be directly related to the clinical practice of midwifery.
  - ◆ Any remaining hours may be in professional development activities that enhance the practice of the licensed midwife.

A licensed midwife shall obtain CE hours through one or more of the categories listed in [WAC 246-834-355](#). Documentation for all activities must include licensee's name, date of activity, and number of hours.

The current renewal fee is \$541, which includes the \$16 fee to access the University of Washington HEAL-WA health resources website.

