

**MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT**

DATE REPORT ISSUED: July 30, 2015  
ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California  
SUBJECT: Maternidad La Luz - Challenge Program  
STAFF CONTACT: Curtis Worden, Chief, Licensing Program

REQUESTED ACTION:

After review and consideration, determine whether Maternidad La Luz (MLL) Challenge Program meets the current minimum requirements for approval by the Medical Board of California (Board) pursuant to Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 2513. Staff is recommending approval of the MLL Challenge Program. Should the Members agree, a motion should be made to approve the MLL Challenge Program as meeting the minimum requirements pursuant to BPC section 2513.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of MLL's Challenge Program pursuant to BPC section 2513.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

BPC section 2513(a) states: "An approved midwifery education program shall offer the opportunity for students to obtain credit by examination for previous midwifery education and clinical experience. The applicant shall demonstrate, by practical examination, the clinical competencies described in Section 2514 or established by regulation pursuant to Section 2514.5. The midwifery education program's credit by examination policy shall be approved by the board, and shall be available to applicants upon request. The proficiency and practical examinations shall be approved by the Board. Beginning January 1, 2015, new licensees shall not substitute clinical experience for formal didactic education." (Emphasis Added) (Attachment 2).

Prior to January 1, 2015, Board staff contacted MLL requesting documentation to verify the existing MLL - Challenge Program is in compliance with California statute. The Board received written correspondence on August 7, 2014 from MLL advising the Board all Challenge applicants successfully complete the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) examination which is based on a minimum of a one year program, and MLL provides a study guide to California Challenge Program applicants which includes the course work for an additional fifteen months. The study guide is identical to materials for the students attending the Three-Year program offered by MLL. The written examination process is the same for both the Challenge Program applicants and Three-Year program applicants.

In February 2015, MLL provided Board staff with an updated Challenge Program curriculum that validates it meets the requirements for midwifery certification. Board staff reviewed all materials and determined the MLL – Challenge Program meets the minimum requirements pursuant to BPC section 2513.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no fiscal impact to the Board in granting approval to MLL to offer students the Challenge Program. If the Board grants approval to the program, this could increase access to midwifery care in California.

PREVIOUS MBC AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION:

In 2004, the Medical Board approved MLL's three year direct-entry midwifery program and application to add a challenge program as well.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Business and Professions Code section 2512.5

Attachment 2 – Business and Professions Code section 2513

Attachment 3 – Business and Professions Code section 2514

Attachment 4 – California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 13, section 1379.30

Attachment 5 – California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 13, section 1379.31

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]**

*( Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399. )*

**CHAPTER 5. Medicine [2000 - 2521]**

*( Chapter 5 repealed and added by Stats. 1980, Ch. 1313, Sec. 2. )*

**ARTICLE 24. Licensed Midwives [2505 - 2521]**

*( Article 24 repealed and added by Stats. 1993, Ch. 1280, Sec. 3. )*

**2512.5.**

A person is qualified for a license to practice midwifery when he or she satisfies one of the following requirements:

(a) (1) Successful completion of a three-year postsecondary midwifery education program accredited by an accrediting organization approved by the board. Upon successful completion of the education requirements of this article, the applicant shall successfully complete a comprehensive licensing examination adopted by the board which is equivalent, but not identical, to the examination given by the American College of Nurse Midwives. The examination for licensure as a midwife may be conducted by the Division of Licensing under a uniform examination system, and the division may contract with organizations to administer the examination in order to carry out this purpose. The Division of Licensing may, in its discretion, designate additional written examinations for midwifery licensure that the division determines are equivalent to the examination given by the American College of Nurse Midwives.

(2) The midwifery education program curriculum shall consist of not less than 84 semester units or 126 quarter units. The course of instruction shall be presented in semester or quarter units under the following formula:

(A) One hour of instruction in the theory each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one unit.

(B) Three hours of clinical practice each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one unit.

(3) The midwifery education program shall provide both academic and clinical preparation equivalent, but not identical to that provided in programs accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives, which shall include, but not be limited to, preparation in all of the following areas:

(A) The art and science of midwifery, one-half of which shall be in theory and one-half of which shall be in clinical practice. Theory and clinical practice shall be concurrent in the areas of maternal and child health, including, but not limited to, labor and delivery, neonatal well care, and postpartum care.

(B) Communications skills that include the principles of oral, written, and group communications.

(C) Anatomy and physiology, genetics, obstetrics and gynecology, embryology and fetal development, neonatology, applied microbiology, chemistry, child growth and development, pharmacology, nutrition, laboratory diagnostic tests and procedures, and physical assessment.

(D) Concepts in psychosocial, emotional, and cultural aspects of maternal and child care, human sexuality, counseling and teaching, maternal and infant and family bonding process, breast feeding, family planning, principles of preventive health, and community health.

(E) Aspects of the normal pregnancy, labor and delivery, postpartum period, newborn care, family planning or routine gynecological care in alternative birth centers, homes, and hospitals.

(F) The following shall be integrated throughout the entire curriculum:

(i) Midwifery process.

(ii) Basic intervention skills in preventive, remedial, and supportive midwifery.

(iii) The knowledge and skills required to develop collegial relationships with health care providers from other disciplines.

(iv) Related behavioral and social sciences with emphasis on societal and cultural patterns, human development, and behavior related to maternal and child health, illness, and wellness.

(G) Instruction shall also be given in personal hygiene, client abuse, cultural diversity, and the legal, social, and ethical aspects of midwifery.

(H) The program shall include the midwifery management process, which shall include all of the following:

(i) Obtaining or updating a defined and relevant data base for assessment of the health status of the client.

(ii) Identifying problems based upon correct interpretation of the data base.

(iii) Preparing a defined needs or problem list, or both, with corroboration from the client.

(iv) Consulting, collaborating with, and referring to, appropriate members of the health care team.

(v) Providing information to enable clients to make appropriate decisions and to assume appropriate responsibility for their own health.

(vi) Assuming direct responsibility for the development of comprehensive, supportive care for the client and with the client.

(vii) Assuming direct responsibility for implementing the plan of care.

(viii) Initiating appropriate measures for obstetrical and neonatal emergencies.

(ix) Evaluating, with corroboration from the client, the achievement of health care goals and modifying the plan of care appropriately.

(b) Successful completion of an educational program that the board has determined satisfies the criteria of subdivision (a) and current licensure as a midwife by a state with licensing standards that have been found by the board to be equivalent to those adopted by the board pursuant to this article.

*(Amended by Stats. 1999, Ch. 655, Sec. 30. Effective January 1, 2000.)*

# **ATTACHMENT 2**

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]**

*( Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399. )*

**CHAPTER 5. Medicine [2000 - 2521]**

*( Chapter 5 repealed and added by Stats. 1980, Ch. 1313, Sec. 2. )*

**ARTICLE 24. Licensed Midwives [2505 - 2521]**

*( Article 24 repealed and added by Stats. 1993, Ch. 1280, Sec. 3. )*

**2513.**

(a) An approved midwifery education program shall offer the opportunity for students to obtain credit by examination for previous midwifery education and clinical experience. The applicant shall demonstrate, by practical examination, the clinical competencies described in Section 2514 or established by regulation pursuant to Section 2514.5. The midwifery education program's credit by examination policy shall be approved by the board, and shall be available to applicants upon request. The proficiency and practical examinations shall be approved by the board. Beginning January 1, 2015, new licensees shall not substitute clinical experience for formal didactic education.

(b) Completion of clinical experiences shall be verified by a licensed midwife or certified nurse-midwife, and a physician and surgeon, all of whom shall be current in the knowledge and practice of obstetrics and midwifery. Physicians and surgeons, licensed midwives, and certified nurse-midwives who participate in the verification and evaluation of an applicant's clinical experiences shall show evidence of current practice. The method used to verify clinical experiences shall be approved by the board.

(c) Upon successful completion of the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2), the applicant shall also complete the licensing examination described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 2512.5.

*(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 665, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2014.)*

# **ATTACHMENT 3**



**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC**

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]**

*( Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399. )*

**CHAPTER 5. Medicine [2000 - 2521]**

*( Chapter 5 repealed and added by Stats. 1980, Ch. 1313, Sec. 2. )*

**ARTICLE 24. Licensed Midwives [2505 - 2521]**

*( Article 24 repealed and added by Stats. 1993, Ch. 1280, Sec. 3. )*

**2514.**

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent a bona fide student from engaging in the practice of midwifery in this state, as part of his or her course of study, if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The student is under the supervision of a licensed midwife or certified nurse-midwife, who holds a clear and unrestricted license in this state, who is present on the premises at all times client services are provided, and who is practicing pursuant to Section 2507 or 2746.5, or a physician and surgeon.

(2) The client is informed of the student's status.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a "bona fide student" means an individual who is enrolled and participating in a midwifery education program or who is enrolled in a program of supervised clinical training as part of the instruction of a three year postsecondary midwifery education program approved by the board.

*(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 515, Sec. 17. Effective January 1, 2014.)*

# **ATTACHMENT 4**

16 CCR § 1379.30

**§ 1379.30. Midwifery Education Program.**

The midwifery education program shall prepare the midwife to practice as follows:

- (a) Management of the normal pregnancy.
- (b) Management of normal labor and delivery in all birth settings, including the following, when indicated:
  - (1) Administration of intravenous fluids, analgesics, postpartum oxytocics, and RhoGAM.
  - (2) Amniotomy during labor.
  - (3) Application of external or internal monitoring devices.
  - (4) Administration of local anesthesia, paracervical blocks, pudendal blocks, and local infiltration.
  - (5) Episiotomy.
  - (6) Repair of episiotomies and lacerations.
  - (7) Resuscitation of the newborn.
- (c) Management of the normal postpartum period.
- (d) Management of the normal newborn care, including administration of vitamin K and eye prophylaxis.
- (e) Management of family planning and routine gynecological care including barrier methods of contraception such as diaphragms and cervical caps.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2514.5, Business and Professions Code.

Reference: Sections 2512.5 and 2514.5, Business and Professions Code.

**HISTORY**

1. New article 5 (sections 1379.30-1379.31) and section filed 7-23-98; operative 8-22-98 (Register 98, No. 30).

This database is current through 7/3/15 Register 2015, No. 27

16 CCR § 1379.30, 16 CA ADC § 1379.30

# **ATTACHMENT 5**

16 CCR § 1379.31

**§ 1379.31. Evidence of Completion of Educational Requirements.**

For purposes of Section 2515.5 of the code, either of the following shall be deemed satisfactory evidence that an applicant has met the educational standards required for licensure as a midwife:

(a) A diploma issued by a midwifery program approved by the division; or

(b) A notice of successful completion of the challenge program (credit by examination) issued by a program approved by the division.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2514.5, Business and Professions Code.

Reference: Section 2515.5, Business and Professions Code.

**HISTORY**

1. New section filed 7-23-98; operative 8-22-98 (Register 98, No. 30).

This database is current through 7/3/15 Register 2015, No. 27

16 CCR § 1379.31, 16 CA ADC § 1379.31