

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 205  
(A-08)

Introduced by: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Subject: Home Deliveries

Referred to: Reference Committee B  
(Craig W. Anderson, MD, Chair)

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1 Whereas, Twenty-one states currently license midwives to attend home births, all using the  
2 certified professional midwife (CPM) credential (CPM or "lay" midwives), not the certified  
3 midwives (CM) credential which both the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
4 (ACOG) and American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) recognize<sup>i</sup>; and

5  
6 Whereas, There has been much attention in the media by celebrities having home deliveries,  
7 with recent *Today Show* headings such as "*Ricki Lake takes on baby birthing industry: Actress*  
8 *and former talk show host shares her at-home delivery in new film*"<sup>ii</sup>; and

9  
10 Whereas, An apparently uncomplicated pregnancy or delivery can quickly become very  
11 complicated in the setting of maternal hemorrhage, shoulder dystocia, eclampsia or other  
12 obstetric emergencies, necessitating the need for rigorous standards, appropriate oversight of  
13 obstetric providers, and the availability of emergency care, for the health of both the mother and  
14 the baby during a delivery; therefore be it

15  
16 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the recent American College of  
17 Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) statement that "*the safest setting for labor, delivery,*  
18 *and the immediate post-partum period is in the hospital, or a birthing center within a hospital*  
19 *complex, that meets standards jointly outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)*  
20 *and ACOG, or in a freestanding birthing center that meets the standards of the Accreditation*  
21 *Association for Ambulatory Health Care, The Joint Commission, or the American Association of*  
22 *Birth Centers*"<sup>iii</sup> (New HOD Policy); and be it further

23  
24 RESOLVED, That our AMA develop model legislation in support of the concept that the safest  
25 setting for labor, delivery, and the immediate post-partum period is in the hospital, or a birthing  
26 center within a hospital complex, that meets standards jointly outlined by the AAP and ACOG,  
27 or in a freestanding birthing center that meets the standards of the Accreditation Association for  
28 Ambulatory Health Care, The Joint Commission, or the American Association of Birth Centers."  
29 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated staff cost of \$1,929.

Received: 04/28/08

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.acog.org/departments/stateleg/MidwiferyYearinReview2007.pdf>, accessed March 18, 2008

<sup>ii</sup> [www.today.msnbc.msn.com/id/22592397](http://www.today.msnbc.msn.com/id/22592397), accessed March 18, 2008

<sup>iii</sup> [www.acog.org/from\\_home/publications/press\\_releases/nr02-06-06-2.cfm](http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr02-06-06-2.cfm), accessed March 18, 2008