

FAQ - Licensed Midwifery in Washington State (2022)

What is a Licensed Midwife (LM)?

- LMs provide care during the childbearing cycle in normal, healthy pregnancies. Complications require a physician consult. The midwives' scope of practice includes:
 - Prenatal care
 - Education and counseling for pregnancy, birth, and infant care
 - Continuous support during labor
 - Delivery of the baby
 - Care of the newborn up to two weeks
 - Postpartum care
 - Family planning counseling
 - Administration of some medications including antibiotics during labor

How are licensed midwives educated?

- Washington LMs attend a minimum of 100 births under supervision during their 3+ years of clinical & didactic training.
- Licensed midwives (LMs) are regulated under [RCW 18.50](#).

How do licensed midwives practice?

- LMs typically attend births in freestanding birth centers or in home settings.
- LMs can perform all the procedures that may be necessary during the course of normal pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum/newborn period. This includes administering [selected medications](#).

Can licensed midwives obtain “malpractice” insurance?

- Yes!

Is midwifery care cost effective?

- Yes! Data from the WA State HCA (2016) shows that licensed midwifery care leads to lower cesarean birth rates and reduced costs when compared to hospital-based care of low-risk women.
¹ This saved the State of Washington \$1.9 million in 2016 alone.

More Info?

- LM Fact Sheet [Long Version](#)

¹ https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/medicaid_cost_data_2016.ffi_and_mcos.pdf