

Certification of Birth Assistants Sunrise  
Follow Up Questions to Applicant Report  
June 30, 2015

1. The draft bill indicates a certified birth assistant may perform any duties delegated by and under the close supervision of a midwife that do not exceed the midwife's scope of practice. Is it your intent to allow birth assistants to perform anything a midwife is authorized to perform as long as it is under close supervision? If not, please elaborate on the tasks a birth assistant would be performing.

Rather than elaborating on the tasks certified birth assistants would perform, we would rather call out the tasks that midwives perform that would be inappropriate for a certified birth assistant:

- artificial rupture of membranes (AROM)
- urinary catheters
- newborn exam
- intravaginal procedures
- suture

2. Please elaborate on the training provided for medication administration, including IV administration? Please include the number of hours, specific topics covered, and how much hands-on is included.

The average IV skills training courses are eight hours, including 4-5 hours of hands on time. The courses are offered at many locations, including community colleges, as a nursing CME (continuing medical education) We will forward a syllabus for a skills training course next week. Medication administration that does not involve puncture of the skin is covered in the NW Birth Assistant Training Course.

3. Is it your intent to include blood draws? If so, for what purpose. Please elaborate on the training, including the number of hours, specific topics covered, and how much hands-on training is included.

No.

4. Please provide details on the Northwest Birth Assistants end of course examination.

Attached.

5. The applicant report states that the end of course examination is online. Does that mean people can view it before taking it?

No. I misstated. The end of course exam is a closed-book proctored exam that cannot be viewed ahead of time.

6. The applicant report states there is an option to challenge the birth assistant course and take the end of course examination without attending the three-day course. Could there be a case where someone passed the examination without any hands-on training?

Yes, they could pass the test, but a skills assessment is necessary in the form of evaluations by supervising providers prior to taking the written test.

7. Northwest Birth Assistants includes a prerequisite of completion of “labor support doula workshop” before starting the program. Are there approved workshops or specific requirements for the workshop?

The only requirement is that the doula course could not be online. However, this does not need to be part of the requirements of the training program approved by the secretary. We understand that the purpose of the DOH regulation is for health and safety of the public so while we believe that doula training is immensely valuable for a birth assistant, we do not believe it should be requirement of the state.

8. The Northwest Birth Assistants orientation manual lists the agendas for the first and second days, but not the third day. Please provide the agenda/topics covered for the third and final day of the training.

Submitted under separate cover by NW Birth Assistants.

(Orientation manual is posted on the sunrise web page under 2015 Pending Sunrise Reviews)

## Additional Clarification Provided by Applicant

After the department received the applicant's responses to our June 30 follow up questions, we sent two additional clarification questions. Here are the applicant's responses.

### **7/22/2015 – The applicant responded with:**

Department Question: Your response only addresses IV administration and administration that doesn't puncture the skin. It does not include elaboration on the training for other types of medication injections (including the number of hours, specific topics covered, and how much hands-on).

Applicant Response: The other types of medication injections is offered as a part of NWBA's birth Assistant training. 5 hours of hands on time is spent on IM and subcutaneous injection. Specific topics are; preparing medication for administration, informed consent, administration of medication and disposal of medication.

Department Question: Are you stating that the eight-hour IV skills training that can be obtained from community colleges and nursing CMEs is a prerequisite for the NW Birth Assistant Training Course?

Applicant Response: No. Proof of IV skills training would be a part of the DOH application packet.

### **7/28/15 – Additional follow up provided by the applicant:**

It has been brought to my attention that I should add some clarifying comments to the answers I supplied on behalf of MAWS to the DOH follow-up questions on the birth assistant sunrise review. Those answers were submitted on July 16.

In light of your question #3, below:

*Is it your intent to include blood draws? If so, for what purpose. Please elaborate on the training, including the number of hours, specific topics covered, and how much hands-on training is included.*

to which our response was "no", then 'drawing blood' should be added to the excluded activities list under question #1, as edited below, in blue:

*The draft bill indicates a certified birth assistant may perform any duties delegated by and under the close supervision of a midwife that do not exceed the midwife's scope of practice. Is it your*

*intent to allow birth assistants to perform anything a midwife is authorized to perform as long as it is under close supervision? If not, please elaborate on the tasks a birth assistant would be performing.*

Rather than elaborating on the tasks certified birth assistants would perform, we would rather call out the tasks that midwives perform that would be inappropriate for a certified birth assistant:

artificial rupture of membranes (AROM)

urinary catheters

newborn exam

intravaginal procedure

suture

blood draws (however, collecting umbilical cord blood is an allowed activity for birth assistants)