

As to subsection (b)(2) through (6) of this section, the attention of the General Assembly is called to the fact that the current practice of licensed nurse midwives is broader than the practice delineated in this law. Specifically, licensed nurse midwives frequently select and administer drugs from a medical directive established by a physician. Since it is often impossible to predict when a pregnancy or childbirth becomes or will become abnormal, licensed nurse midwives do, in emergency and similar situations, undertake charge of abnormal cases of pregnancy and attend women in abnormal cases of childbirth. Also, it sometimes is almost impossible to draw a line between the "normal" pregnancy or childbirth and the "abnormal" pregnancy or childbirth. In addition, since "disease" can encompass common problems such as anemia, licensed nurse midwives under certain circumstances undertake charge of administering care for a disease that relates to childbirth.

In subsection (b)(4) and (5) of this section, the prohibitions of present Art. 43, § 87 are revised as scope restrictions to clarify that these illegal acts are not part of the practice of midwifery.

In subsection (b)(5) of this section, the phrase "except under the personal direction and supervision of a physician", is new language added to clarify that a licensed nurse midwife has the same scope of action as an unlicensed individual. This addition is called to the attention of the General Assembly.

In subsection (b)(6) of this section, the phrase "prophylactic against gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum" is added to clarify the duty of a licensed nurse midwife under Art. 43, § 38B of the Code.

The last clause of present Art. 43, § 85, which prohibits a licensed nurse midwife from using a designation that implies that the licensed nurse midwife may take an action outside of the authorized scope of practice, is deleted as unnecessary.

The first clause of present Art. 43, § 85 now appears in § 7-609 of this subtitle.

The balance of present Art. 43, § 87 now appears in §§ 7-606 and 7-610 of this subtitle.