



# Issue Response

## OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

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### Midwifery

**February 13, 2013**

On January 18, 2013, the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (Agency) received an inquiry asking whether a Licensed Direct Entry Midwife can purchase and administer Vitamin K injection.

#### **Issue**

May a Licensed Direct Entry Midwife purchase and administer Vitamin K injection?

#### **Answer**

ORS 687.493(1) authorizes Licensed Direct Entry Midwives to purchase and administer legend drugs and devices that are used in pregnancy, birth, postpartum care, newborn care or resuscitation and that are deemed integral to providing safe care to the public by the State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery (Board) by rule.

ORS 687.493(2) limits the use of certain authorized legend drugs including limiting administration of Vitamin K for neonatal use. This limitation does not specify the type of administration of Vitamin K.

ORS 687.493(3) authorizes a Licensed Direct Entry Midwife to use devices for injection if under the context of subsection (1).

Given the authority granted by the law it appears that a Licensed Direct Entry Midwife may administer Vitamin K by injection for neonatal use. However; Oregon Administrative Rule 331-026-0020 does limit the purchase and administration of Vitamin K to “AquaMephyton” or “Konakion.”

**Important Note:** The Agency does not provide personal legal advice to licensees or members of the public. The responses below are specific to only those questions asked. Even slight changes in the scope or content of the question may change the applicability of these responses in a different situation. Please consult your own attorney for legal advice regarding Oregon laws and administrative rules.