

# COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The college holds the registrants to the minimum standards for practising the profession of midwifery which reflect the essential knowledge, skills and abilities registrants are expected to have in order to perform or provide midwifery services in a safe, competent and professional manner, along with any related limits or conditions that must be observed or met to ensure registrants do not practise in an incompetent manner, as established here and published by the board under section 19 (1) (k) of the *Act*.

The standards of practice provide a framework to evaluate the midwife's practice to ensure that it is safe and consistent with the practice of midwifery in British Columbia.

### STANDARD ONE

The Midwife shall be the primary care provider within the midwives' scope of practice.

### STANDARD TWO

The midwife shall collaborate with other health professionals and, when the client's condition or needs exceed the midwives' scope of practice, shall consult with and refer to a physician.

### STANDARD THREE

If the pregnancy becomes high-risk and primary care is transferred to a physician, the midwife may continue to counsel, support and advise the client at her request.

### STANDARD FOUR

The midwife shall work in partnership with the client recognising individual and shared responsibilities.

### STANDARD FIVE

The midwife shall uphold the client's right to make informed choices and to provide consent throughout the childbearing experience.

### STANDARD SIX

The midwife shall provide continuity of care to the client according to the *Model of Practice* throughout the childbearing experience.

### STANDARD SEVEN

The midwife shall respect the client's right to make informed choices about the setting for birth and shall provide care in all appropriate settings. In each case, the midwife shall assess safety considerations and the risks to the client and inform her of same.

**STANDARD EIGHT**

The midwife shall make every effort to ensure that a second midwife or qualified birth attendant who is currently certified in neonatal resuscitation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation assists at every birth.

**STANDARD NINE**

The midwife shall ensure that no act, or omission places the client at unnecessary risk.

**STANDARD TEN**

The midwife shall maintain complete and accurate health care records.

**STANDARD ELEVEN**

The midwife shall ensure confidentiality of information except with the client's consent, or as required to be disclosed by law, or in extraordinary circumstances where the failure to disclose will result in immediate and grave harm to the client.

**STANDARD TWELVE**

The midwife shall be accountable to the client, the midwifery profession and the public for safe, competent and ethical care.

**STANDARD THIRTEEN**

The midwife shall participate in the continuing education and evaluation of self, colleagues, and the community.

**STANDARD FOURTEEN**

The midwife shall critically assess research findings for use in practice and shall support research activities.

**STANDARD FIFTEEN**

The midwife shall only prescribe, order or administer drugs and substances in the categories as set out in Schedules A and B of the *Regulation* and these shall be prescribed, ordered or administered in accordance with the *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Ordering and Administering Drugs*.

**STANDARD SIXTEEN**

The midwife shall only order, perform or collect samples for and interpret screening and diagnostic tests in accordance with the *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Ordering and Interpreting Screening and Diagnostic Tests*.