

FRAMEWORK FOR MIDWIFE CERTIFICATION FOR POINT OF CARE ULTRASOUND APPLICATION¹

Registered midwives in British Columbia provide care to low risk clients during pregnancy, labour and birth and the postpartum period. Midwives are required to discuss with a health care practitioner, and consult and transfer care with a physician in the following situations: 1) discuss with a health care practitioner prenatally if the fetal presentation is other than cephalic at 36 weeks gestation; 2) consult with a physician prenatally if the fetal presentation is other than cephalic at 37 weeks; 3) consult with a physician during labour if the fetal presentation is breech and transfer care to a physician if during labour the fetal presentation is abnormal (other than cephalic).

Midwives with special training in ultrasound application who are certified by the College of Midwives of BC (CMBC) and credentialed to use this skill by their hospital may conduct a point of care ultrasound to assess the fetal heart activity, assess placental location and assess fetal presentation and position prenatally or on an urgent basis during labour for the purposes of initiating a timely consult should this be necessary.

Specialized practice certification in this competency area may be obtained through a course or program established by or approved under the authority set out in the CMBC Bylaws that meets the requirements set out in this framework.

Documentation of specialized practice certification must be provided to and recognized by the hospital in which the midwife holds privileges, unless the hospital itself is administering the certification process.

Limitations - A midwife with specialized practice certification in this competency area may offer point of care ultrasound if there are convincing, compelling indications under the following conditions:

- The ultrasound finding is necessary to confirm fetal heart activity, placental location and fetal presentation and position in order to guide the management of clinical care;
- If between 35-40 weeks pregnant and a breech presentation is suspected and a timely consult is needed² either prenatally or during labour;
- There is a follow-up plan arranged in the event of confirmed breech presentation either prenatally or during labour based on the *CMBC Indications for Discussion, Consult and Transfer of Care*.

Certification

The certification process must be carried out by a program that is approved by CMBC.

Upon successful completion of the certification process, proof of successful completion of an approved program must be submitted to CMBC before certification is granted.

¹ PLEASE NOTE: Certification programs are not yet in place. For more information, please contact CMBC.

² If in a remote area and a transfer to a larger centre is necessary based on ultrasound finding and/or if an ultrasound appointment through the usual hospital booking department is not initiated in a timely manner.

Where successful completion of an approved program in this area of specialized practice has been acquired in a jurisdiction outside of British Columbia CMBC may assess the certification program for equivalency in meeting CMBC requirements.

Specialized Practice Certification must include:

Demonstration of theoretical and practical knowledge through the completion of study materials and successfully passing written and/or oral and or simulated practical assessments prior to the demonstration of clinical skills. Theoretical and practical knowledge and proper procedure and protocol for point of care ultrasound should include: advantages, disadvantages, risks and benefits and client counseling to elicit informed consent.

Demonstration of appropriate skills in point of care ultrasound will include:

1. Determination of appropriateness for offering and conducting a point of care ultrasound;
2. Application and acceptable protocol for the use of a point of care ultrasound;
3. Documentation of indications for, procedures followed and outcomes of point of care ultrasound application;

References

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, 2009, *Clinical Practice Guideline, Vaginal Delivery of Breech Presentation* No. 226 June 2009.
<http://sogc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/gui226CPG0906.pdf>

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, 2014, *Joint CAR/SOGC Position Statement on Non-Medical Use of Fetal Ultrasound*.
http://www.car.ca/uploads/About/JOINT_CAR-SOGC Stmt Non-Med-Use Fetal US EN 20140220.pdf

World Health Organization (WHO), 2016, *Diagnostic Imaging*.
http://www.who.int/diagnostic_imaging/imaging_modalities/dim_ultrasound/en/