

FRAMEWORK FOR MIDWIFE CERTIFICATION FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS MANAGEMENT¹

Entry-level midwives in British Columbia provide primary care on their own responsibility to childbearing families throughout the perinatal period, including the 3 months following a birth. The CMBC's *Competencies for Registered Midwives* states that entry-level midwives must have knowledge of sexually transmitted infections, vaginal infections, and the ability to obtain the necessary specimens to determine the presence of sexually transmitted infections, vaginal infections and cytological changes and use a microscope to examine specimens.

Under Schedule B to the *Midwives Regulation*, midwives with specialized training in treating infections such as sexually transmitted infections who are certified by the College of Midwives of BC (CMBC) may prescribe, order and administer drugs and substances for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections. Specialized practice certification in this competency area may be obtained through a course or program established or approved under the authority set out in the Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC that meets the requirements set out in this framework.

Limitations – A midwife with specialized practice certification in this competency area may only prescribe, order and administer drugs and substances for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections throughout the perinatal period, including the 3 months following a birth.

Certification

The certification process must be carried out by a recognized midwifery, medical, registered nurse or nurse practitioner education program approved by the CMBC. Currently CMBC recognizes British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) course NSPN 7735 – Sexually Transmitted Infections Management.

The midwife must submit proof of course completion to CMBC BC before certification is granted. Where competence in this area of specialized practice has been acquired in a jurisdiction outside of British Columbia, the registrant must present proof of certification and competence to the College of Midwives for assessment of equivalency in meeting the CMBC requirements.

The provision of appropriate sexually transmitted infections management requires adequate training of care providers including the use of risk assessment tools in the areas of sexual health.²

¹ An approved certification program is in place. For more information, please contact CMBC.

² Public Health Agency of Canada. *Canadian guidelines for sexually transmitted infections*. Online Government Publication

Specialized Practice Certification

The demonstration of theoretical and practical knowledge for treating sexually transmitted infections includes:

- 1) the ability to diagnose and treat various sexually transmitted infections as set out in the CMBC's *Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Ordering and Administering Drugs and Canadian Guidelines for sexually transmitted infections*;
- 2) the ability to recognize the indications and contraindications, the pharmacological mechanisms of action and the potential side effects for prescription medication for sexually transmitted infections;
- 3) the ability to carry out a comprehensive sexual health assessment that includes cultural considerations, including a focus on the socio-economic determinants of health;
- 4) the ability to integrate history or present illness and review of system into the sexual history when appropriate;
- 5) the ability to utilize an appropriate STI risk assessment tool and diagnostic screening tests;
- 6) the ability to determine and prescribe the appropriate prescription for use by an individual client; and
- 7) the ability to provide the client with proper information and instruction for use and appropriate cautions regarding risks, side effects and when to see a health care provider for follow-up.

Demonstration of Appropriate Skills for Treating Sexually Transmitted Infections

After verifying a midwife's knowledge and skills through the completion of the required study materials, the midwife will be required to successfully pass a written exam, and/ or complete an oral exam and simulated practical assessment.

Continuing Education

Evidence-based continuing education programs are a necessary component for updating practitioners' knowledge and skills. Midwives are expected to keep up to date with the latest evidence relevant to prescribing for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections.