

INDICATIONS FOR PLANNED PLACE OF BIRTH

There is an important distinction to be made between a client's choice of caregiver for pregnancy and childbirth, and the client's choice of birth setting. A client may choose a midwife to provide care. Similarly, a client may choose to give birth at home, in an out-of-hospital birth centre, or in hospital.

A midwife providing primary care will provide or make accessible all the information that the client requires to make an informed decision about appropriate place of birth. Where consultation has taken place, this information will include the recommendation of the consultant.

When care has been transferred to a physician, either because it has been required as an indication for a transfer of care or because of some other complicating condition, it is unlikely that out-of-hospital birth will be considered appropriate.

When providing primary care, the midwife will support the client's choice, after the client has carefully considered the information and recommendations. Midwives are encouraged to review with their clients the *Planned Place of Birth Informed Consent*¹. In the event that a client requests a home birth despite having been advised that such a course of action might be outside midwifery standards of practice, the midwife will follow CMBC policy². There are a number of situations in which a planned hospital birth is more appropriate. Client health assessment in regards to planned place of birth recommendations occur on an ongoing basis during pregnancy and the intrapartum period, with appropriate consultation as detailed in *Indications for Discussion, Consultation and Transfer of Care*.

¹ Having a client sign the *Planned Place of Birth Informed Consent* form is not a CMBC requirement, however a signed consent ensures the discussion between midwife and client about planned place of birth has occurred.

² Refer to *Policy for Client Requests Outside Midwifery Standards of Practice and Required Procedures for Midwife-Initiated Termination of Care*.