

POLICY ON ALTERNATE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS¹

DEFINITIONS

Standard Model: The delivery of midwifery care, subject to *the Midwives Regulations, Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC*, and the *Standards of Practice Policy*.

Alternate Practice Arrangement: The delivery of midwifery care, subject to the *Midwives Regulations and Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC*², with approved exemptions to compliance with Standards 1.3, 6.1, 6.4 and/or 7.2 of the *Standards of Practice Policy*.

Alternate Practice Arrangement Letter of Agreement: A document that outlines terms, duration, renewal, reporting and quality assurance requirements of the approved Alternate Practice Arrangement, as well as any conditions to be imposed on the midwives' registration upon returning to the Standard Model.

POLICY

Alternate Practice Arrangements (APAs) offer opportunities for innovative approaches to the delivery of midwifery care while ensuring public safety and adherence to the *Midwives Regulations and Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC*. APAs are established based on community, client and/or provider need including but not limited to:

1. serving a population of clients with unique social and/or medical requirements;
2. sustainable practice amongst midwives and/or other perinatal care providers.

APAs typically have approved exemptions from Standard 1.3 (midwife as primary care provider), Standard 6.1 (comprehensive care through all trimesters, labour, birth and postpartum), Standard 6.4 (continuity of care provider, no more than four care providers) and/or Standard 7.2 (providing care in all settings) of the *Standards of Practice Policy* and as such are subject to approval by the Approval Panel of the CMBC Quality Assurance (QA) Committee. Only registered midwives in good standing with CMBC are eligible to apply for APAs.

A new registrant working subject to the *New Registrants Policy* is expected to work in the Standard Model that offers continuity of care and choice of birth place, as described in the *Midwifery Model of Practice*. New registrants working within the *New Registrants Policy* may apply for an APA with requested modification to Standard 6.4 only.

Professional Considerations

- All registrants working within an APA must meet CMBC Quality Assurance Program requirements and two-year active practice requirements (if applicable) **in addition** to quality assurance measures set out in their APA Letter of Agreement; failure to meet

¹ This policy replaces the *Policy on Midwifery Pilot Projects to Serve Women with Diverse Needs*.

² CMBC does not have the authority to exempt midwives from adhering to the Midwives Regulation or the Bylaws of the College of Midwives of BC.

these measures or unsatisfactory results may result in the dissolution of the APA and/or a referral to the Inquiry Committee.

- A registrant working in an APA may simultaneously work within the standard model (e.g. as a locum in another practice) so long as they meet CMBC Quality Assurance Program requirements for currency and competency.
- A registrant working in the standard model does not need to apply to join an established APA if they plan to work for less than six consecutive months in the APA (e.g. as a locum).
- Working exclusively in an APA for more than three years may result in the placement of conditions on a registrant's registration when and if they return to the Standard Model. For example, a registrant working within an approved APA providing only prenatal and postnatal care for a three-year period will be required to register in the Conditional Return to Practice category to ensure mentorship and supervision for a specified number of births attended upon returning to the Standard Model.
- Registrants working within an APA need to be aware that doing so may affect their class of registration and/or eligibility for inter-provincial registration reciprocity.

Application Process

CMBC staff are available to meet with registrants to discuss their applications prior to submission. There are two streams to apply for an APA. Registrants interested in establishing a new APA will submit an *Application to Establish an Alternate Practice Arrangement*. Registrants seeking to join an established APA for more than six months will each submit an individual *Application to Join an Established Alternate Practice Arrangement*.

Requirements and Approval Process

Each *Application to Establish an Alternate Practice Arrangement* is unique and will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Approval of one application does not constitute a precedent for approval of other applications. In reviewing each application for approval, the Approval Panel of the QA Committee will use a standardized evaluation rubric to determine whether the APA meets the following requirements (as applicable):

- adheres to the *Midwives Regulations and Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC*;
- contributes to a high quality of perinatal care in context of proposed exceptions to *Standards of Practice Policy*;
- addresses a perinatal care need;
- contributes to a high level of client satisfaction;
- improves access to perinatal care;
- contributes to health promotion and disease prevention;
- maintains or increases clinical learning opportunities for midwifery and other students;
- includes a sustainable funding model;
- includes plans for reporting, self-evaluation and quality assurance; and
- plans for transparency to clients in the provision of care outside the Standard Model.

The process of considering an application for project approval is iterative; the Approval Panel of the QA Committee may ask for more details and may request a presentation or meeting with the applicant midwife prior to making a decision.

The Approval Panel of the QA Committee will endeavor to provide an initial written response within 60 days of receiving a completed application. Only midwives who have been approved following an application process under established CMBC criteria may work within the specified APA.

Once approved by the Approval Panel of the QA Committee, each applicant registrant will sign an individual Alternate Practice Arrangement Letter of Agreement. Upon dissolving or withdrawing from an APA, each applicant registrant must immediately notify CMBC.