

POLICY ON HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES

Preamble

The College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) Standards of Practice¹ requires that midwives respect the rights of clients to make informed choices about place of birth. Midwives have a responsibility to provide information to their clients in order to facilitate informed decision making: planned place of birth is then chosen by the client in consultation with the midwife. Midwives must be competent and willing to attend births in a variety of settings as appropriate, and be able to continue to provide care to their clients should intrapartum transfer from home to hospital occur.

Definitions

“Hospital privileges” is defined as admitting medical staff privileges at the hospital(s) with maternity services in the geographic region where the client plans to give birth and/or may require care.

Policy

All General, Conditional, Conditional (remedial), Conditional (return to practice) and Temporary registrants are required to have hospital privileges when acting as principal midwife² for their clients, in order to meet Standard Seven of the CMBC Standards of Practice.

CMBC encourages all newly registered midwives, locum midwives, midwives relocating, and non-practicing midwives returning to practice to contact their local hospital and apply for hospital privileges as soon as possible. Midwives must apply for hospital privileges and make every reasonable effort to obtain privileges in the geographic area in which they intend to provide midwifery services as outlined in the BC Midwives Contract for Services with MSP.³

CMBC recognizes that the time it takes for an application for hospital privileges to be considered is variable. A midwife may engage in clinical practice during the period of time that it takes for a hospital privileges application to be processed and adjudicated. During this time, the midwife may continue to provide care to clients so long as they work collaboratively with at least one other maternity health care provider who has hospital privileges and can be available on call continuously, to admit and provide care to clients in the hospital as clinically indicated. Once a hospital privileges application has been adjudicated, the midwife must immediately notify CMBC of the outcome.

Exception

Midwives registered as Temporary (limited scope) are not required to have hospital privileges. A Temporary (limited scope) registrant may provide antepartum and/or postpartum care, as well as intrapartum care as a second midwife for home births if they hold current certificates in neonatal resuscitation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A midwife registered as Temporary (limited scope) must work collaboratively with at least one other maternity health care provider

¹ *CMBC Standards of Practice Standard Seven*

² Principal midwife is defined as a “midwife who... takes responsibility for and provides midwifery services as the primary care provider during the intrapartum period.” (*Bylaws for College of Midwife of British Columbia, 2017*)

³ <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/midwifery-payment-schedule-preamble.pdf>

who has hospital privileges and can provide continuous call coverage to admit and provide care to clients in the hospital as clinically indicated.

Please notify CMBC of any change in the status of your hospital privileges.