



BC COLLEGE OF NURSES & MIDWIVES

As of Sept. 1, 2020, the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) and the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) amalgamated to create a new regulatory body: **British Columbia College of Nurses & Midwives (BCCNM)**.

The document you are about to access reflects our most current information about this topic, but you'll notice the content refers to the previous regulatory college that published this document prior to Sept. 1, 2020.

We appreciate your patience while we work towards updating all of our documents to reflect our new name and brand.

Contact us

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REGULATORY POLICY & PROGRAMS

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April 14, 2020

CMBC COVID-19 update: April 14, 2020

Dear Midwives,

It's hard to believe that nearly five weeks have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared by the WHO. I'd like to acknowledge the importance of midwifery- and of you- in keeping BC's perinatal system both intact and humane during this global health crisis. I am grateful to you for your unrelenting service, adaptability and kindness.

This week's update provides just a few reminders, based on your recent questions to CMBC and some anticipated issues.

Q: Have the collection and delivery timelines on newborn screening blood spot collection been extended because of the pandemic?

A: No. In keeping with the guidelines, newborn screening blood spot cards should still be collected between 24 and 48 hours of age, and in transit to the provincial laboratory within 24 hours of collection. If your client is leaving the hospital prior to 24 hours postpartum and you are not confident that you will see them again before 48 hours postpartum, consider offering early collection in hospital followed by a repeat collection in the community. According to the PSBC [Newborn Screening Guideline](#), over 80% of the disorders screened can still be identified from this early collection, and thus can help prevent imminent life-threatening events. A second card can then be collected by 2 weeks (14 days) of age, which optimizes detection for those disorders which cannot be reliably detected until after 24 hours of age (PKU, CF, Hcy).

Q: I'm returning to practice next month but can't find an NRP or CPR course - are you offering extensions for completion?

A: Yes. The CMBC Board passed an urgent revision to the *Policy on Continuing Competencies* on March 18th, 2020, which extends the completion deadlines for NRP, CPR and Emergency Skills as required for registration, to three years during emergency situations (such as the pandemic).

Q: My team has been asked to provide postpartum care to clients we did not care for during pregnancy or birth. We would like to do this. Is this OK?

A: Yes. You can accept clients for postpartum care only- with a few caveats. If this were to become your practice exclusively in the long term (i.e. you permanently stopped offering prenatal and postpartum care), we would require you to either apply for an alternate practice arrangement or change your registration status to Temporary (limited scope). However, if adding a postpartum roster is in compliment to your current practice, nothing further is required from a regulatory perspective. This practice is a positive way, within scope, that midwives can help fill the postpartum care gap, particularly in the context of a pandemic.

Please note that all the same standards of practice apply to your interactions with postpartum only-clients (i.e. approach to clinical practice, documentation, consultation, etc.). In addition, the same pandemic-informed visit schedule and use of virtual technologies to conduct visits as appropriate also apply. On a practical note, I would suggest developing a formal intake system to ensure you have access to your postpartum clients' demographics and prenatal and intrapartum records to inform your care.

That's all for now- please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions between now and next week. Otherwise, we'll be in touch then.

Sincerely,

Louise Aerts
Registrar & Executive Director