



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

GENERAL INQUIRIES

604.742.6200
1.866.880.7101 toll-free within
Canada only
info@bccnm.ca

REGISTRATION

register@bccnm.ca
midwivesregister@bccnm.ca

REGULATORY POLICY & PROGRAMS

practice@bccnm.ca

COMPLAINTS

complaints@bccnm.ca
Fax 604.899.0794





March 18, 2020

Please Read: Regulatory Guidance on COVID-19

Dear Midwives,

Our message today offers continued regulatory support as you navigate your clinical practice in light of COVID-19. It also outlines the new contingency measures in place that support registration renewal and Temporary (Emergency) registration given NRP, CPR and ES course cancellations. We recognize these are incredibly challenging circumstances for all.

Meeting CMBC *Standards of Practice* during a pandemic

The midwifery model of practice in BC aims to provide the broad boundaries of midwifery practice. CMBC's *Standards of Practice* and associated policies detail the minimum requirements for the safe practice of midwifery. For this reason, we advise you refer primarily to the [Standards of Practice](#) and associated policies when considering how to adapt your practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are designed to be flexible and responsive to a changing world. How best to provide clinical care during a pandemic will require you to exercise your professional judgment to be able to provide care that is both comprehensive and in alignment with infection control and public health directives from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Ministry of Health.

From a regulatory perspective, Standard 9, which states that “*the midwife shall ensure that no act or omission places the client at unnecessary risk*” is very applicable right now. Below is an outline of this standard in detail and our suggestions of how it may be practically interpreted at this time:

The midwife:

9.1 Uses their knowledge, skills and judgement as well as local policies and protocols to plan and implement care (Interpretation: your professional judgement is necessary and valued - look to widely accepted, implemented and evidence-based institutions such as the [SOGC](#), [PSBC](#), the [WHO](#), [NICE](#) for applicable policies and protocols related to antenatal visit schedules, risk stratification, place of birth considerations, and others as related to risk stratification and planning and implementing prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care).

9.2 Provides on-going assessment and modifies planned care as required (Interpretation: be adaptive in your provision of care based on circumstances, by using virtual technologies (with client consent- use CMBC's [form](#) or simply document consent in the medical record) to conduct visits, offering shorter visits, and adapting care based on client need).

9.3 Responds promptly and appropriately to emergency situations (**Interpretation:** monitor the [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) website](#), which offers guidance to health professionals on COVID-19 that is updated on an ongoing basis and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), read your email and associated links and information, stay on top of changing requirements, apply them daily in practice).

9.4 Maintains access to appropriate equipment and supplies (**Interpretation:** work with your suppliers, health authorities and professional association to obtain infection control supplies and personal protective equipment).

9.5 Refers to another appropriate practitioner when their ability to practise safely is mentally or physically impaired (**Interpretation:** now is the time to know how and when you should get tested for COVID-19. Create contingency plans within your practice, your community and your health authority should you or your practice partners be required to self-isolate or get sick).

9.6 Adheres to best practices related to infection prevention and control at all times (**Interpretation:** refer to the BCCDC for up -to-date [IPAC requirements](#) and ensure compliance at all times).

As long as your decisions and actions are documented, explained to clients, and are based on your best judgement with the information available at the time, you are meeting CMBC standards of practice.

Continuing Competency Courses - Extension

We understand that most, if not all Emergency Skills, CPR and NRP classes have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Please be reassured that if these cancellations have affected you, changes to our [Policy on Continuing Competencies](#) have been made effective today that allow for an extension of ES, CPR and NRP course completion/certification within the previous three years during an emergency situation. Currency in FHS within the past two years remains required as it is available online.

Temporary (Emergency) Registration

There is a provision in the CMBC bylaws that allows for the streamlined registration of qualified applicants under the category of Temporary (emergency) registration. Midwives registered under this category may work solely for the purpose of providing assistance during an emergency situation. In consideration of COVID-19 and potential impact on the health care system in BC, CMBC is now ready to start registering Non-practising registrants, recently retired midwives and midwives from other provinces in this registration category should the need arise. We will be sending out more details on Temporary (emergency) registration in the days to come, but please contact us if you need more information sooner.

Second Birth Attendants

We have also made significant changes to our [Policy for Second Birth Attendants](#). CMBC no longer requires midwives to individually apply for and receive CMBC approval to work with Second Birth Attendants (SBAs). Instead, midwives must only act in accordance with the *Policy for Second Birth Attendants* and Standard 8 of the *Standards of Practice*. Further, this policy has been amended to state that during an emergency situation such as the one we are experiencing now, SBAs do not require currency in CPR (often a barrier to eligibility).

College Operations

Currently, our office building is closed, and staff are working remotely. This means that we are no longer able to receive mail or receive visitors. Please fax or email in any documents. In addition, all payments must be made by credit card as cheques will not be received.

Finally, despite the circumstances, our goal is to conduct CMBC business as usual. In addition to reaching out with COVID-19 updates and related guidance, we will be sending our routine reminders and requests for information as usual. And of course, if you have any questions about meeting the *Standards of Practice* or other CMBC requirements, we are here for you. Please contact CMBC at information@cmbc.bc.ca and your question will be quickly assigned to the appropriate staff member for response.

Wishing you good health and resilience,

Louise Aerts
Registrar & Executive Director