

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Framework for midwife certification in intrauterine contraception insertion

Intrauterine contraception includes both intrauterine systems (those that contain hormones) and intrauterine devices (those that contain copper). For the purposes of certification as outlined in this framework, the term intrauterine contraception (IUC) only refers to intrauterine systems (those that contain hormones).

Within the [Midwives Regulation](#), midwifery scope of practice related to intrauterine contraception is as follows:

- Intrauterine systems containing hormones deliver drugs and are permitted by section 5(1)(l) of the Midwives Regulation.
- Intrauterine devices containing copper are devices and **are not** permitted by section 5(1)(g)(iv) of the Midwives Regulation.
- Midwives may provide contraceptive services for patients during the three months following a birth per the definition of “midwifery” in the Midwives Regulation.

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)'s [Entry-Level Competencies for Registered Midwives](#) states, “The competent entry-level midwife supports the client’s reproductive and sexual health, recognizing the connection to the client’s human rights.” Specialized practice certification in intrauterine contraception insertion builds on those entry level competencies.

When midwives discuss intrauterine contraceptive options with their clients, they discuss both intrauterine systems and intrauterine devices to facilitate an [informed choice discussion](#). If the client chooses a copper intrauterine device, the insertion of the device is directed to another professional who is permitted to insert copper intrauterine devices.

LIMITS AND CONDITIONS

- A midwife with specialized practice certification in intrauterine contraception insertion may only insert intrauterine systems (those containing hormones).

Certification

BCCNM Specialized Practice Certification in Intrauterine Contraception Insertion may be obtained as follows:

Step 1: Successfully obtain [BCCNM Specialized Practice Certification in Hormonal Contraceptive Therapy](#).

Step 2: Complete a BCCNM-approved IUC insertion course:

- *Contraceptive Care Part 2: A Continuing Education Course for Healthcare Providers*, McMaster University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Continuing Health Sciences Education
- *Intrauterine Contraception (IUC) Insertion Preceptorship*, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)
- *Implants and IUDs: Comparing and Inserting Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC)*, University of British Columbia (UBC) Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Step 3: Demonstrate IUC insertion competency in supervised clinical practice:

- Trainees perform a minimum of five IUCs under the supervision of an experienced health-care practitioner with IUC insertion authority, in good standing with their regulatory body.

Step 4: Submit proof of IUC insertion competency to registermidwives@bccnm.ca:

- Upon successful completion of the education course and supervised clinical practice, trainees submit a certificate and/or letter of recommendation from an approved course and/or supervisor.

A midwife must receive confirmation of specialized practice certification from BCCNM prior to independent practice in this competency area.

Competency profile for specialized practice certification

The certified midwife demonstrates theoretical and practical knowledge of inserting IUCs, including:

1. The knowledge necessary for the safe assessment, insertion, and management of IUC.
2. The knowledge of indications and contraindications, mechanisms of action, and potential side effects of IUC.
3. The ability to carry out a comprehensive sexual health assessment that considers determinants of health, trauma-informed care, as well as cultural safety and humility and anti-racism, including anti-Indigenous racism.
4. The ability to determine and prescribe the appropriate IUC for an individual client.
5. The ability to provide the client with proper information and instruction for use, and appropriate cautions regarding risks, side effects, and when to see a health-care provider for follow-up.
6. The ability to recognize normal adjustment reactions to a new IUC, as well as signs and symptoms of endometritis, expulsion, and uterine perforation, including those requiring consultation with, or transfer of care to, a medical or nurse practitioner.

Maintaining certification

Midwives are accountable and responsible for maintaining evidence-based knowledge, skills, and competencies to support the provision of safe, ethical, and competent care.

The following requirements apply to midwives with BCCNM Specialized Practice Certification in Intrauterine Contraception Insertion:

1. **Specialized practice certified midwives must demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development and complete at least one learning activity related to their area of specialized practice in the preceding year.** Midwives are expected to keep up to date with the latest research, guidelines, and techniques related to intrauterine contraception. This can include self-directed learning as well as formal continuing professional development activities. Midwives are expected to maintain records of their activities for up to three years.
2. **Specialized practice certified midwives must have practiced in their area of certification in the preceding 36 months.** Midwives are expected to maintain current clinical experience in intrauterine contraception and must have prescribed, inserted, and/or managed intrauterine systems in the 36-month period preceding registration renewal. Midwives are not required to submit proof of their activities unless directed by BCCNM staff.
3. **Midwives who have not met requirements #1 and #2 will need to recertify.** Midwives seeking recertification are assessed on a case-by-case basis with consideration for recent clinical experience, education, and practice context.

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Effective date: May 18, 2023

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Pub. No. 834