

PRACTICE STANDARD

Certified Midwives: Epidural Maintenance

Introduction

The *Certified Midwives: Epidural Maintenance* practice standard applies to midwives who meet BCCNM certification requirements for epidural maintenance.

Under the [Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation](#) and the [Nurses and Midwives Regulation](#), midwives are authorized, if certified, in epidural maintenance for the purpose of pain relief during labour and delivery, in a hospital only.

Maintenance of continuous infusion pumps and associated clinical assessments required for epidural administration and monitoring requires certification by midwives. Certified midwives should ensure that they are familiar with all institutional guidelines, policies, and protocols as related to epidural maintenance in the hospitals where they work.

A practicing midwife licensee who holds certification may use the titles certified midwife, midwife (certified), or the abbreviation RM(C). If a certified midwife wishes to note their specific certification, they may append the term epidural maintenance certified.

Standards

1. Certified midwives:
 - a. Follow relevant legislation and regulations,
 - b. Follow BCCNM's ethics standards and practice standards, including any applicable limits and conditions on performing the activity,
 - c. Follow organizational, policies, processes, and restrictions, and
 - d. Practise within their individual competence.

Limits & conditions

1. Midwives must successfully complete a competency-based skills assessment and orientation at the BC hospital where the midwife holds privileges.
2. When a certified midwife is monitoring a client with an epidural and the client is ready to give birth, it is expected that another caregiver experienced in monitoring epidurals will assume the monitoring role as part of the duties of a second attendant in the hospital. Likely, this second birth attendant will be a registered nurse.

3. The responsibility for the management of epidural analgesia throughout the course of labour and delivery rests with the anesthesiologist at all times. When the certified midwife assumes the role of maintaining the continuous infusion pump and performing related client assessments associated with epidural use, the midwife is also responsible for notifying the anesthesiologist if concerns arise.

Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication

Effective April 1, 2026, this practice standard, and any amendments to it, is made a bylaw under the authority of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act, B.C.*

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