

PRACTICE STANDARD

Midwives: Hospital Privileges

Introduction

This practice standard sets expectations related to **hospital privileges** for midwives.

Standards

1. Midwives are required to have hospital privileges when **on call**.
2. Midwives who carry a **caseload** and do not have hospital privileges must share care with at least one other maternity health care provider who has hospital privileges and can provide continuous on call coverage to their shared clients.
3. All newly registered midwives, locum midwives, midwives relocating, and non-practising midwives returning to practice must apply for hospital privileges as soon as possible. Midwives must apply for and make every reasonable effort to obtain hospital privileges in the geographic area in which they intend to provide midwifery services.
4. Midwives must immediately notify BCCNM of any changes to their hospital privileges.

Limits & conditions

1. During the period of time that it takes for a hospital privileges application to be processed, a midwife may carry a caseload and remain a practising registrant without hospital privileges. During this time, the midwife must work collaboratively with at least one other maternity health care provider who has hospital privileges and can be on call for clients. Once their hospital privileges application has been adjudicated, the midwife must immediately notify BCCNM of the outcome.

Glossary

Hospital privileges: formal approval from a facility with perinatal services in the geographic region where their clients plan to give birth and/or may require care that allows a midwife to provide specific clinical services within that facility. They are based on qualifications, training, and experience, and may include responsibilities like admitting and discharging patients, conducting births, prescribing medications, and managing emergencies.

On call: primary care provider available on an urgent basis to provide care.

Caseload: client or group of clients for whom the midwife (and/or their team) has agreed to provide primary care.

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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