

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Policy statement on complementary and alternative therapies

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) recognizes that clients have the right to choose complementary and alternative therapies while receiving midwifery care, and that midwives have knowledge of and may offer complementary and alternative therapies within their scope as per the *Competencies of Registered Midwives*.

Midwives who offer, refer to, discuss or have professional affiliation with providers of complementary or alternative therapies are expected to:

- provide sufficient information regarding the evidence, efficacy, risks and benefits of the conventional and proposed complementary or alternative therapy so that the client may make an informed choice decision, and document this discussion appropriately in the medical record;
- respect the autonomy of clients to choose or decline complementary or alternative therapies;
- recognize the potential effects of their position as a trusted, regulated medical professional on their client's choice to accept or decline the proposed therapy; and
- not withhold indicated medical examinations, investigations, therapies and/or physician consultation.

In addition to the above points, midwives who practice complementary or alternative therapies in their provision of midwifery care must also do so in an ethical manner that remains within their scope of care and level of competence.

References

College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, 2017. *Professional Standards and Guidelines- Complementary/Alternative Therapies* [online]. Available from:

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College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, 2014. *Professional Standards and Guidelines on Complementary and Alternative Therapies* [online]. Available from: [https://cpsns.ns.ca/wp-](https://cpsns.ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Complementary-and-Alternative-Therapies.pdf)

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