

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Policy on hospital privileges

Preamble

Midwives provide 24 hour on-call, comprehensive primary care during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period, in all appropriate settings including private homes, clinics, other community locations and hospitals as indicated¹. To do so, they must have hospital privileges when on call.

Definitions

"Hospital privileges" are defined as medical staff privileges in a category that allows the midwife to immediately admit and care for their clients, at a hospital(s) with maternity services, in the geographic region where their clients plan to give birth and/or may require care.

"On call" is defined as the primary care provider available on an urgent basis to provide care.

"Caseload" is defined as client or group of clients for whom the midwife (and/or their team) has agreed to provide with primary care.

Policy

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 as outlined in the BC Midwives Contract for Services with MSP².
4. Midwives must immediately notify BCCNM of any changes to their hospital privileges.

¹ Refer Standard One, Six and Seven of BCCNM's *Standards of Practice*

² <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/midwifery-payment-schedule-preamble.pdf>

EXCEPTION

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.

Copyright © British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives/March 2021

Effective date: June 11, 2018

900 – 200 Granville St
Vancouver, BC V6C 1S4
Canada

www.bccnm.ca

Pub. No. 870