

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Policy on infection prevention and control

Definitions

Infection Prevention and Control: Evidence-based practices that can prevent harm caused by infection to healthcare providers and clients.

Hand Hygiene: The removal of visible soil and microorganisms from the hands which is accomplished by using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.

Disinfection: A process that kills most disease-producing microorganisms but does not destroy all bacterial spores.

Sterilization: A validated process that renders a device free from viable microorganisms.

Biomedical Waste: Waste containing infectious or potentially infectious materials.

Personal Protective Equipment: Special equipment or clothing worn by medical staff to protect themselves against hazards.

Policy

Effective infection prevention and control (IPAC) is imperative for providing high quality and safe midwifery care. This guideline is intended to ensure that midwives develop and implement IPAC best practices.

Breaking the cycle of transmission is key to IPAC. In order to do so, IPAC measures that should be applied in midwifery practice include the following:

- proper hand hygiene;
- cleaning of equipment and clinical spaces;
- disinfection and sterilization best practices;
- appropriate disposal of biomedical waste;
- protecting oneself and others from blood and bodily fluid exposure; and
- wearing personal protective equipment as necessary.

In order to ensure that measures are carried out appropriately and to prevent the spread of infection, midwives are expected to follow the guiding principles of IPAC:

1. know IPAC best practices and apply these at all times and in all settings;
2. review and adhere to IPAC procedures and policies set by their Health Authorities;
3. educate, model and advocate IPAC best practices for others;
4. monitor updates to IPAC best practices and update practice accordingly; and
5. ensure best practices for IPAC are followed by clinic staff.

Resources

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives strongly encourages midwives to familiarize themselves with the below mentioned resources.

FOR GENERAL IPAC MEASURES:

- PICNet: Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia [online], 2019. Available from: <https://www.picnet.ca/>.
- Public Health Ontario, 2013, *Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice* [online]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/IPAC_Clinical_Office_Practice_2013.pdf

FOR REPROCESSING OF REUSABLE MEDICAL DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT:

- British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2011, *Best Practice Guidelines for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Critical and Semi-Critical Medical Devices in BC Health Authorities* [online]. Available from: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2011/Best-practice-guidelines-cleaning.pdf>

FOR PROTECTION FROM BLOOD AND BODILY FLUID EXPOSURE:

- BCCNM (formerly College of Midwives of British Columbia), 2017, *Guideline for Protection From Blood and Body Fluid Exposure* [online]. Available from: https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/standards_practice/rm/RM_Guideline_for_Protection_from_Blood_and_Body_Fluid_Exposure.pdf

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<https://www.ontariomidwives.ca/ipac>.
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Effective date: March 4, 2019

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Pub. No. 877