

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Policy on active practice requirements

Preamble

The objective of active practice requirements is to ensure the initial consolidation and ongoing currency and competency of midwifery skills in the context of the model and scope of midwifery in British Columbia. These skills include antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum care provided in accordance with the principles of continuity, intrapartum care as principal midwife in a hospital setting and intrapartum care as principal midwife in a home/out-of-hospital setting.

Definitions

Newly Registered Midwife: Means a registrant who is a new graduate of a BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) recognized midwifery education program. This may also refer to a registrant who is newly registered through inter-provincial reciprocity and has not met BCCNM's initial active practice requirements within a two-year period in their originating jurisdiction.

Principal Midwife: Means a midwife who takes primary responsibility for and provides midwifery services as the primary care provider during the intrapartum period. Where a midwife is providing direct supervision to a student midwife, a Conditional Registrant, a Conditional (remedial) Registrant or a Conditional (return to practice) Registrant, the midwife can count those births as births attended as principal midwife.

Continuity of Care: Means the provision of midwifery services during the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods, by a registrant known to the client and includes twenty-four (24) hour on-call availability of care from a midwife known to the client.

Policy

Newly registered midwives shall meet the following active practice requirements during their first two years of registration:

1. The provision of midwifery care to at least 40 clients as principal midwife or second attendant midwife, twenty of whom the registrant attends as principal midwife¹ and twenty of whom are cared for in accordance with the principles of continuity of care, in British Columbia (BC) or in another jurisdiction in Canada where midwifery is regulated.
2. The provision of midwifery care during labour and birth, as principal midwife, for at least ten births occurring in a hospital.
3. The provision of midwifery care during labour and birth, as principal midwife, for at least ten births occurring in an out-of-hospital setting^{2,3}.

Registrants are required to submit an active practice report to BCCNM after their first two years of registration. However, they may submit their active practice report to BCCNM sooner if they have met the requirements prior to this.

Should a registrant fail to meet their active practice requirements, they will be referred for a holistic, risk-based assessment of their skills consolidation by the Quality Assurance Committee, in accordance with the *Policy on Requirements for Registrants with Active Practice Shortfalls*.

Once active practice requirements are satisfied, midwives are required to stay clinically active in the provision of prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care over a rolling period of three years as part of the current clinical experience requirement of BCCNM's Quality Assurance Program.

¹ Up to 20% of the active practice requirement for principal midwife may be transfers of care, so long as the registrant continued to provide supportive care for the birth.

² Where a midwife is working in a rural or remote community where the hospital does not have cesarean section capabilities, the midwife may apply to have births attended in that facility count toward both the hospital and out-of-hospital birth requirements.

³ Of the ten out-of-hospital births required to be attended as principal midwife, the registrant may count up to two transfers of location from out-of-hospital to hospital as required so long as the registrant remained as principal midwife following the transfer or, if care was transferred, continued to provide supportive care for the birth.

References

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