

FOR BCCNM REGISTERED MIDWIVES

# Philosophy of care

Midwifery care is centred upon an understanding of healthy individuals progressing through the life cycle. It is based on a respect for pregnancy as a state of health and childbirth as a normal physiologic process and a profound event.

Midwifery is dynamic in its approach, based upon an integration of knowledge that is derived from the arts and sciences and tempered by experience and research.

Midwifery is holistic by nature, combining an understanding of the social, emotional, cultural, spiritual, psychological and physical ramifications of the reproductive health experience.

Midwifery promotes wellness in clients, babies and families both autonomously and in collaboration with other health professions.

Midwifery care takes place in partnership with clients and is provided in a manner that is flexible, creative, empowering and supportive.

Midwifery practice includes continuity of care in order to strengthen the partnership between midwives and their clients, to provide opportunities for informed choice discussions, and to enhance and protect the normal process of childbirth.

Midwifery promotes decision making as a shared responsibility between a client and their caregivers. Midwives recognise their clients as primary decision makers.

Midwifery actively encourages informed choice by providing complete, relevant, objective information to facilitate decision making. The practice of midwifery enables individuals to develop the understanding, skills and motivation necessary to take responsibility for and control of their own health.

Midwives regard the interests of a client and their fetus as compatible.

Midwives respect the client's right to choose both their caregiver and place of birth.

Fundamental to midwifery care is the understanding that a client's caregivers respect and support them, so that they may give birth safely with power and dignity.

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