

# College of Midwives of Manitoba

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## STANDARD ON DELEGATION AND STANDING ORDERS

### PURPOSE

This document sets the minimum standard for midwives with respect to delegation and standing orders. It aims to support midwives in their ability to coordinate and deliver optimal care for their clients in interprofessional environments.

### DEFINITIONS

**Delegation** is a formal process by which a regulated health professional, who is both competent and authorized by legislation to perform an action or procedure, delegates the performance of the action or procedure to another individual who is not authorized by legislation to perform it. Delegation involves a transfer of authority and must only occur when an individual accepting the delegation is adequately trained and competent to perform the action or procedure.

A **Standing Order** is a directive or prescription ordered by a regulated health care provider that can be carried out by other health care workers when predetermined conditions have been met. Standing orders are developed and approved in advance by a group of health professionals identified as authorizers and implementers of the order. Standing orders are always written and enable implementers to decide to perform ordered procedure(s) under specific conditions, without the direct assessment by the authorizer at the time.

### STANDARD

In the course of engaging in the practice of midwifery, a midwife may accept delegations and standing orders from regulated health professionals with legislative ordering authority. However, it is the midwife's responsibility to accept any delegation or standing order in accordance with midwifery standards of practice, the *Midwifery Act* and *Midwifery Regulation*. It could be considered professional misconduct if the midwife:

- Fails to maintain a standard of the profession.
- Provides or attempts to provide services or treatments that the midwife knows or ought to have known was beyond their knowledge, skills or judgment.
- Fails to inform the physician of their inability to accept responsibility of the procedure for which the member is not adequately trained, certified or competent to perform without supervision.

In the course of engaging in the practice of midwifery, a midwife is authorized to delegate and provide standing orders. However, it is the midwife's responsibility to provide delegations and standing orders in accordance with midwifery standards of practice, the *Midwifery Act* and *Midwifery Regulation*. It could be considered professional misconduct if the midwife:

- Fails to maintain a standard of the profession.
- Provides a delegation or standing order to a member of the health care team (regulated or unregulated) for which he/she is not adequately trained or competent to perform.