

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR MIDWIVES IN MANITOBA

STANDARD ONE

The midwife works in partnership with the woman to plan her care.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Identifies her Midwifery Philosophy and Code of Ethics and freely shares this information with the woman.
2. Provides information from her own knowledge and experience as well as other sources.
3. Facilitates the shared decision-making process.
4. Provides individualized care based on the unique nature of each woman's pregnancy.
5. Involves others in care, as desired by the woman.
6. Collaborates with other health professionals and community agencies as necessary.
7. Ensures the woman has an opportunity to reflect on and discuss her childbirth experience.
8. Informs the woman and her family of available community support networks.
9. Facilitates closure of the midwife/client relationship.

STANDARD TWO

The midwife upholds each woman's right to free and informed choice and consent throughout the childbirth experience.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Acts as the woman's advocate.
2. Respects the decisions made by the woman even when these decisions or plans are contrary to her own beliefs.
3. Informs the woman regarding the indications, risks and implications of all tests and procedures.
4. Respects the woman's right to decline treatments or procedures.
5. Clearly states when her professional judgment is in conflict with the decision or plans of the woman.
6. Discusses as necessary with the woman and consults with colleagues in an effort to find mutually satisfying solutions.

STANDARD THREE

The midwife maintains complete ongoing and updated records based on her assessments.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Collects, records and shares information at each contact with the woman.
2. Collects information using all relevant sources.
3. Ensures information is legible, signed and dated at each entry and reports stored appropriately.
4. Maintains confidentiality of records.
5. Provides records to the woman upon request and reviews them with her.
6. Provides records with women's agreement to other health care providers as required as a discussion, consultation or as a transfer of care.

STANDARD FOUR

The midwife is accountable to the woman, to herself, to the midwifery profession and to the wider community for her practice.

Criteria

The midwife

1. Practices in accordance with the Philosophy and Code of Ethics for midwives in Manitoba
2. Has a responsibility to uphold her professional standards.
3. Submits her statistics to her employer/Manitoba Health as required.
4. Ensures women are aware of mechanisms for feedback.
5. Documents any misjudgment of practice in the clinical practice reporting and initiates restorative actions.
6. Ensures women are given the opportunity to evaluate their care.
7. Generates an incidence/occurrence report as per employer's protocols.
8. Reports to the Perinatal Review Committee as per criteria for case review.

STANDARD FIVE

The midwife evaluates her practice.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Involves the woman and the community in the evaluation of her practice.

2. Utilizes results of evaluation in her practice.
3. Participates in peer review and quality assurance programs.
4. Seeks to ensure that the policies and quality of services in the organization in which she works reflect the needs of the women.
5. Recognizes own learning needs and finds opportunities to have these met.

STANDARD SIX

The midwife develops and shares midwifery knowledge and participates in research.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Participates in ongoing midwifery education.
2. Shares her knowledge and expertise in a supportive manner.
3. Ensures advancement of midwifery knowledge is based on activities that protect the rights of women.
4. Ensures that midwifery research meets ethical standards.
5. Works with women, consumers and the community to identify areas for research.
6. Bases her practice on current and relevant research.
7. Reflects on her practice and generates research topics.

STANDARD SEVEN

The midwife implements her practice with no action or omission placing the woman or infant at risk.

Criteria

The midwife:

1. Plans midwifery care on the basis of current and reliable knowledge and in accordance with Acts, Regulations and relevant College policies.
2. Meets legal requirements and maintains current midwifery registration.
3. Practices in accordance with legislation governing midwifery practice.
4. Ensures assessment is ongoing and modifies midwifery care accordingly.
5. Demonstrates competence to act effectively in any situation.
6. Identifies deviations from normal and, after discussion with the woman, consults and refers as appropriate.
7. Works collaboratively with other health professionals and community groups as necessary.
8. Discussion, Consultation or transfers care to other health professionals as required.
9. Maintains, has access to, and demonstrates correct use of appropriate equipment.