

College of Midwives of Manitoba

STANDARD ON STUDENT SUPERVISION

PREAMBLE

Appropriate clinical supervision enables students to learn and achieve professional competence, confidence, and autonomy, ultimately ensuring safe and appropriate client care. The student's ability to develop the appropriate professional values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours is largely influenced by their supervisors and the learning environment in which they are supervised and mentored. Similarly, client safety that is at the core of quality midwifery care, is inseparable from a good learning environment and culture that values and supports students. Midwives supervising students are accountable and responsible for clients in their care and for their professional decisions and actions.

DEFINITIONS

Student means a person enrolled in an approved education or bridging program to become a regulated health professional.

Supervisor means a midwife who supervises a student in a clinical environment. This can include:

- A midwife who is the preceptor and is responsible for overseeing a specific student's clinical work through a placement in a clinical environment. They lead the evaluation and assessment of the student's practice throughout a placement and contribute to the report on whether the student should progress to the next stage of their training. A New Registrant is not able to hold this role.
- A midwife who is the most responsible provider and holds overall responsibility for leading and coordinating the delivery and organization of a client's care and supervises a student at a specific moment in time. A New Registrant who has completed their NR clinical requirements is able to hold this role.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIDWIFERY STUDENTS

A midwifery student must

- Provide clinical care only under the supervision of a registered midwife or other health care provider, and within the parameters of the education program upon which their registration was approved.
- Communicate their learning needs and boundaries to their supervisor in order to ensure appropriate supervision proportionate to their needs, competence and confidence.
- Communicate any abnormal findings to their supervisor in a timely manner.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPERVISOR

- The registered midwife providing supervision must only do so in a setting/settings in which they are authorized to practice independently.

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- The supervising midwife is fully responsible for all clinical care provided by the student whether the midwife is providing direct or indirect supervision.
- The supervising midwife is responsible for co-signing all entries made by the student into the client's chart.
- Supervisors must ensure appropriate supervision when a student is involved in client care by:
 - Ensuring that a student's supervision is proportionate to the student's abilities, performance, confidence, and clinical experience and reflects their learning needs and stage of learning.
 - Determining and adjusting the level of supervision as needed, including determining when a student has the knowledge and skills to provide client care without the supervisor being physically present or to independently attend a birth as the second midwife.
 - Being immediately available to the student when not physically present during the clinical encounter or if unavailable, ensuring that an appropriate alternative supervisor is immediately available and has agreed to provide supervision.
- Supervisors must ensure that a midwifery student only works within the boundaries of the midwifery scope of practice and authorization and adheres to the standards of the profession and other relevant standards. When supervising a non-midwifery student, a midwife must only supervise practice within the midwifery scope and standards of practice.
- Supervisors must have current knowledge and experience in the area in which they are providing supervision and feedback to a student.
- Supervisors must ensure that a discussion occurs with the client regarding the role of the student and client consent is obtained when a student is involved in their care.
- Supervisors must continuously monitor and identify concerns about a student's performance or conduct that may affect client safety. Once identified, concerns affecting the safety of clients must be addressed immediately and effectively.
- Supervisors must ensure that a student receives sufficient orientation to the practice and clear guidance about their clinical role before they get involved in direct client care.
- A supervisor must be present for
 - any care provided when a client is in labour
 - any postpartum visit that includes newborn screenings (eg. metabolic, transcutaneous bilirubin, oxygen saturation)
 - any minor surgical or invasive procedure performed by the student.