



February 1, 1994

SHARED CARE WITH A CONSULTING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

In a limited number of situations optimal care of the client may best be provided by the midwife and the consulting health professional sharing the care of the midwife's client.

Shared care may be provided where the consulting health professional is involved in and responsible for a discrete area of the client's care, with the midwife retaining responsibility for those areas that fall within her scope of practice.

It should be determined between the health professionals which of them has overall responsibility and who is coordinating the care. The identity of the health care providers should be communicated to all those involved.

This arrangement should only take place after an in person consultation, and with discussion and agreement among the client, midwife and other health professional regarding roles and responsibilities. In all circumstances, documentation should indicate the caregiver involved, the degree of involvement and any course of action for client care.