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Policy Statement on Eye Prophylaxis

Informed choice is a fundamental part of midwifery care in Ontario and is recognized as such in the standards of the College of Midwives. However, the *Health Care Consent Act, 1996* does not allow for exemptions based on informed choice in the application of eye prophylaxis for newborns. In other words, the midwife is required by law to administer eye prophylaxis and she is not required to receive consent in order to do so. This is the current state of the law.

While the law does not allow for choice in this situation, the College still expects midwives to discuss eye prophylaxis with clients prior to its administration.