

Standard:	Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Reference #:	STCMO_C09252013
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	September 25, 2013
Date to be Reviewed:	April 2015
Revision date(s):	--
Effective date:	January 1, 2014
Attachments:	none



COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to describe the requirements for midwives who use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies in their practice, refer clients to CAM health professionals and/or support their client's choice in using CAM therapies throughout their course of care.

Midwifery standards of practice refer to the minimum standard of professional behaviour and clinical practice expected of midwives in Ontario.

Definition

Complementary and alternative medicine is a group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices and products that are not generally considered part of conventional medicine.

Background

Midwives recognize that women receiving midwifery care may choose to receive CAM therapies throughout their course of care. Some midwives are trained in the use of CAM therapies and may wish to incorporate these therapies into their practice. Midwives have a demonstrated history of working collaboratively with CAM professionals.

Standard

It is the responsibility of the midwife who recommends CAM therapies to refer a client to a regulated health professional or, if the therapy is unregulated, to a qualified CAM professional.

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Midwives who choose to incorporate CAM therapies into the provision of midwifery care must be authorized to perform the therapies if the therapies are controlled acts¹ and must have sufficient knowledge, skill and judgment to do so. Midwives must clearly inform their clients regarding their knowledge and qualifications in the use of CAM therapies and inform clients of their right to seek care from other practitioners.

The College of Midwives of Ontario requires a practice protocol on the topic of Complementary and Alternative Medicine if a midwife incorporates CAM therapies into the provision of midwifery care.²

Recommendation

The College of Midwives of Ontario recommends the development of practice protocols on the topic of Complementary and Alternative Medicine if referrals to CAM therapists are made.

¹ As listed in subsection 27(2) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and as authorized by the *Midwifery Act, 1991*.

² Midwives must be in compliance with the CMO Practice Protocol Standard as of January 1st 2015.