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| Standard: | Continuity of Care |
| Reference #: | STCMO_C09252013 |
| Approved by: | Council |
| Date Approved: | September 25, 2013 |
| Date to be Reviewed: | January 2016 |
| Rescinded: | June 1, 2018 |
| Effective date: | January 1, 2014 |
| Attachments: | none |



CONTINUITY OF CARE

Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to articulate the requirements for midwives regarding the provision of continuity of care for their clients.

The provision of continuity of care is a goal that has inherent value for both clients and midwives and is a means to support excellent outcomes, meaningful relationships, informed choice, choice of birth place, and normal birth.

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

Definition

Continuity of midwifery care is achieved when a relationship develops over time between a client and a small group of no more than four midwives.

Standard

In order to meet the standard on continuity of care, midwifery services must be made available to the client by the same small group of midwives from the onset of care, during all trimesters, and throughout labour, birth and the first six weeks post-partum.

The practice must arrange for opportunities for the client to meet her assigned midwives to support the provision of care by known midwives.

One of the small group of midwives must be identified as the Coordinating Midwife. The Coordinating Midwife is responsible for coordinating the care of a client and identifying who is responsible if she is not available. The client must be made aware of which midwife is her Coordinating Midwife, as well as her responsibilities.

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The Coordinating Midwife must make a best effort to ensure that the small group of midwives makes the time commitment necessary to develop a relationship of trust with the client during pregnancy, to be able to provide safe, individualized care, and to fully support the client during labour and birth and throughout the postpartum period.

The midwifery practice must ensure there is 24-hour on call availability of at least one of the group of midwives known to the client.

A consistent philosophy of care and a coordinated approach to clinical practice must be maintained by midwives working together, which will be facilitated by the use of practice protocols and other tools, according to relevant CMO standards.¹

RESCINDED

¹ E.g., The Ontario Midwifery Model of Care, Standard on Informed Choice, Standard on Interprofessional Collaboration, Standard on Practice Protocols, Standard on Practice Communication.