

Standard:	Surgical Assistant in Obstetrics
Reference #:	STCMO_C09252013
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	May 28, 2014
Date to be Reviewed:	January 2017
Rescinded:	June 1, 2018
Effective date:	July 1, 2014
Attachments:	none



## SURGICAL ASSISTANT IN OBSTETRICS

### Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to describe the requirements for midwives acting as surgical assistants in obstetrics.

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

### Definition

Surgical assistant in obstetrics refers to the role a qualified health professional performs during obstetrical surgery to assist the lead surgeon or obstetrician/gynecologist.

### Background

Midwives are not required to act as surgical assistants in obstetrics, but in some circumstances it may be reasonable for midwives to perform the role of surgical assistant for cesarean births and other obstetrical situations. With the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment, midwives can perform this role to provide timely access to emergency delivery and contribute to the efficient use of human resources.

### Standard

Before acting as a surgical assistant in obstetrics, midwives must successfully complete a course approved by the College of Midwives of Ontario. The course must be delivered by a recognized midwifery or medical education program or hospital. Clinical training must be supervised and assessed by a qualified surgeon or obstetrician/gynecologist. Midwives must provide proof of course completion upon request from the College.

In the execution of surgical assistant duties, a midwife must:

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- Always act in accordance with CMO standards of practice; and
- Receive a clear delegation from the physician *and* have the knowledge and skill required to perform any controlled acts not authorized to midwives.

Midwives must, in collaboration with the hospital's obstetrical department, develop written policies and directives for midwives performing surgical assistance in obstetrics for midwifery and non-midwifery clients.

### Course Content for Surgical Assistant in Obstetrics

The surgical assistant course must include all of the following, at a minimum:

#### 1. Demonstration of theoretical and practical knowledge of:

- Professional issues
- The principles of surgical assist
- The role of surgical assistant for both cesarean section and other obstetrical conditions which may arise (including abdominal hysterectomy)
- Surgical asepsis
- Operative anatomy and physiology
- Hemostasis
- Instruments, sequence, variations
- Surgical techniques
- Post-operative care

#### 2. Demonstration of skills:

- Attending in the role as surgical assistant with an obstetrician/gynecologist or general surgeon who evaluates the midwife's competency.<sup>1</sup>

All components of the CMO approved course must be successfully completed, including the evaluation of competency by the supervising obstetrician/gynecologist or surgeon based on a standardized competency framework.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> May include care provided to non-midwifery clients.

<sup>2</sup> The CMO does not specify a minimum number of assists to determine competency.

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OF ONTARIO



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### Continuing Competency

The process for ensuring continued competency must consider the number of surgical assists in obstetrics attended in the previous 24 months, case-reviews, a review of relevant continuing education, and a review of relevant hospital policies and directives.

RESCINDED

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