

SECOND BIRTH ATTENDANT STANDARD

Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to set out the College's requirements for midwives working with second birth attendants.

Definitions

A second birth attendant is an individual, other than a midwife registered with the College of Midwives of Ontario, who works with a midwife to provide care during labour, birth and the immediate postpartum, not in a subsequent postpartum visit.

Standard

Midwives working with second birth attendants must be registered in the general class without new registrant conditions.

Midwives must be confident that second birth attendants they are working with have the knowledge, skill and judgment to provide competent, respectful and ethical care.

Midwives are accountable for the care provided by second birth attendants who are not members of a regulated profession (i.e. unregulated) and are responsible for ensuring that they provide care in accordance with relevant practice standards, community standards and clinical practice guidelines.

Midwives working with second attendants must:

- be in attendance during the provision of care by the second birth attendant
- ensure second birth attendants document in client records in accordance with the College's standards of practice
- delegate any controlled acts in accordance with the College's standards of practice
- obtain informed consent from clients to the participation of a second birth attendant
- ensure clients understand the role the second birth attendant will play during the client's care

When second birth attendants provide care in homes or other out-of-hospital locations, or in hospitals other than as employees or as privileged staff, midwives must:

- ensure the midwives' own professional liability insurance extends to adequately cover the care provided by the second birth attendants
- Ensure the second birth attendants have successfully completed, and have a certificate of completion in, a College approved course or program in neonatal resuscitation, obstetrical emergency skills and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. College approved courses and programs must be successfully completed according to the schedule below:
 - neonatal resuscitation completed in the past 12 months (1 year)
 - obstetrical emergency skills completed in the past 24 months (2 years)
 - cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) completed in the past 24 months (2 years)

References (legislative and other)

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c. 18

Professional Standards for Midwives (June, 2021)

Delegation, Orders and Directives (January, 2014)

Record Keeping Standard for Midwives (January, 2013)

Continuing competency requirements and approved courses (September, 2018)

Approved by College of Midwives of Ontario Council

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