

CLINICAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to describe the requirements for midwives providing clinical education and supervision to midwifery students. Furthermore, it outlines the level of midwifery student involvement in the provision of midwifery care.

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

Learning from experience is a fundamental component of midwifery education in Ontario. Student participation in midwifery care supports the profession and enhances the care that is delivered. In a continuity of care model, clients and students have opportunities to develop meaningful and mutually supportive relationships.

Definitions

The CMO defines a midwifery student as a person enrolled in the Ontario Midwifery Education Program (MEP), the International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program (IMPP) or a formal Aboriginal Midwifery Training Program.

A midwife performs *direct supervision* when she is on site and able to provide immediate feedback to the care the midwifery student provides.

A midwife performs *indirect supervision* when she is off site and unable to provide immediate feedback to the care the midwifery student provides. Indirect supervision requires midwives to be available by phone for consultation and reporting and to become available for on site supervision, as necessary.

Background

Learning from experience is a fundamental component of midwifery education in Ontario. Student participation in midwifery care supports the profession and enhances the care that is delivered. In a continuity of care model, clients and students have opportunities to develop meaningful and mutually supportive relationships.

Standard

Midwives must inform clients of planned student participation in client care. The student's level of involvement must be made clear to the client prior to student participation.

Midwives shall remain accountable for the care their students provide. Midwives must ensure that any documentation recorded by the student is accurate and in accordance with the CMO *Standard on Record Keeping*. When providing indirect supervision to students, midwives must be available by phone for immediate consultation or reporting and must be available for onsite supervision as necessary. Midwives must always act in accordance with the midwifery standards of care.

The CMO recognizes the increased level of knowledge, skill and judgment acquired by senior level students and therefore allows students to participate as follows, at the discretion of the supervising midwife:

1. MEP and IMPP students enrolled in *Clerkship* may provide care in the role of one of the two midwives at a birth, provided that a supervising midwife is on site performing *direct supervision* and taking full responsibility for clinical care throughout the assessment and duration of labour, birth and immediate postpartum. The MEP student or IMPP candidate may provide care in the capacity of either primary or second midwife.
2. MEP students enrolled in *Maternal and Newborn Pathology* may provide care in the role of one of the two midwives at a *hospital* birth, provided that a supervising midwife is **on site** performing *direct supervision* and taking full responsibility for clinical care throughout the assessment and duration of labour, birth and immediate post partum period. The MEP student may provide care in the capacity of either primary or second midwife.
3. MEP students enrolled in *Midwifery Complications and Consultations* may attend one routine 1st postpartum visit per client under *indirect supervision*, providing the visit is not within the first three postpartum days and is not the final discharge visit. These students may attend additional (non-routine and not clinically indicated) prenatal and postpartum visits under *indirect supervision* at the discretion of the supervising midwife. Midwives are accountable for the care their students provide and must be fully informed of any assessments, concerns, recommendations and follow-up plans provided to the client prior to the midwifery student concluding the visit.
4. MEP students enrolled in *Maternal and Newborn Pathology* may attend up to two routine postpartum visits per client under *indirect supervision*, providing that the visits are not within the first three days and is not the final discharge visit. These students may attend additional (non-routine and not clinically indicated) prenatal and postpartum visits under *indirect supervision* at the discretion of the supervising midwife. Midwives are accountable for the care their students provide and must be fully informed of any assessments,

concerns, recommendations and follow-up plans provided to the client prior to the midwifery student concluding the visit.

5. MEP and IMPP students enrolled in *Clerkship* may attend up to three routine postpartum visits per client under *indirect supervision*, providing that the visits do not include the first visit after the birth or the final discharge visit. These students may attend additional (non-routine and not clinically indicated) prenatal and postpartum visits under *indirect supervision* at the discretion of the supervising midwife. Midwives are accountable for the care their students provide and must be fully informed of any assessments, concerns, recommendations and follow-up plans provided to the client prior to the midwifery student concluding the visit.
6. At the discretion of the supervising midwife and with the client consent, MEP and IMPP students may respond to client calls and/or emergency pages. All student-client communications must be immediately reported to the supervising midwife to confirm appropriate student response.

References (legislative and other)

¹ Routine prenatal visits are those that are typically scheduled once a month up to 28 weeks, once every two weeks from 28 to 36 weeks, and once a week after 36 weeks. Routine postpartum visits are typically scheduled on days 1, 3, 5, 10-14, and 6 weeks.

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