

POLICY ON NEW REGISTRANT REQUIREMENTS

Preamble

The *Policy on New Registrant Requirements* is designed to ensure that new registrants receive the support and experience that will benefit them in entering the profession of midwifery in BC as well as ensure the safest possible care to their clients during the period when they are consolidating clinical skills. The support that can be provided in both clinical and interprofessional situations will be a valuable asset to all newly practicing midwives.

New registrants are recommended to work as close to full time as possible (30 courses of continuity of care and attendance at 40 to 60 births) for at least the first year of practice to assist them in consolidating their prior knowledge and experience and in developing a solid foundation of confidence as a primary caregiver within the BC health care system. This 12-month period should include reasonable off-call time and holidays. It is expected that experienced midwives who have agreed to provide mentorship will ensure new registrants have the opportunity to act as principal midwife in both the home and hospital setting in order to assist new registrants in consolidating their experience, gaining confidence in offering choice of birth place and meeting their two-year active practice requirements.

CMBC requirements for continuity of care and informed choice for clients should remain at the forefront of any arrangements that are being considered in order to meet the requirements of the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements*.

Definitions

Continuity of Care¹: Means the provision of midwifery services during the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum periods, to a client by a registrant or small group of registrants known to the client and includes twenty four (24) hour on-call availability of care from a midwife known to the client.

Established Practice: A practice that:

- has at least one midwife who has been registered and actively practicing for at least one year in British Columbia or another Canadian province designated in the CMBC's *Policy on Inter-Provincial Registration Reciprocity*. If it is a solo practice with a midwife who has been registered through inter-provincial registration reciprocity, the midwife must have been providing midwifery care for at least three months in BC;
- has at least one midwife who has had hospital privileges for at least three months and has a midwife or midwives who have current hospital privileges in the community served; and
- provides care consistent with the full scope of practice of BC registered midwives, including continuity of care and choice of birth place as described in the *Midwifery Model of Practice*.

Experienced Midwife: A midwife who has completed the requirements of the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements*.

¹ As defined in the *Bylaws for College of Midwives of British Columbia*.

Significant Home Birth Experience: Experience should not only include functioning as the principal midwife at more than five births in an out-of-hospital setting, but also the management of complications such as postpartum hemorrhage and neonatal resuscitation in the home setting, as well as the management of transports from home to hospital.

Sharing Care: The *Continuity of Care Policy* defines sharing care.

Policy

All newly registered midwives², those registered as General Registrants and as Conditional Registrants, will be granted registration with the following conditions:

1. A new registrant must work in an established practice sharing care with a midwife or midwives who have agreed to provide mentorship for a period of at least six months and until the new registrant has provided care throughout pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period as principal midwife to 20 clients and their newborns. The new registrant must provide the College of Midwives of BC (CMBC) a CMBC prescribed mentor/mentee agreement form.
2. If a new registrant intends to practise or is practising in an established practice where practice volume is low, the new registrant may choose to also work in another practice with higher volume to meet the requirements. Should the new registrant choose to work in two different established practices to address the requirements outlined in point 1 of the Policy, the new registrant must have a midwife or midwives in each practice who have agreed to provide mentorship to them and CMBC must be notified of the arrangement.
3. During the first six months of registration, when a new registrant is working in an established practice, the registrant is expected to have support from experienced General Registrants or physicians approved under CMBC's *Shared Primary Care Policy*. Mentors must agree to be available to the new registrant in-person or by phone 24/7 for support and advice when the new registrant is providing care, or to attend to the new registrant's clients when needed.
4. While the new registrant is expected to practice consecutively for the six month period, this time period may include reasonable off-call time and holidays.
5. A new registrant working in the hospital setting will normally work with a nurse assisting the new registrant in the second attendant role for the second and third stage of labour, as is usual for other General Registrants working in hospital in British Columbia (BC).
6. A new registrant must attend home births with an experienced General or Temporary Registrant within the new registrant's first six months of practice and, in particular must not attend home births with another new registrant unless one of the new

² This Policy applies to all new registrants in their first 12 months of practice in British Columbia with the exception of midwives registering through the CMBC's *Policy on Inter-Provincial Registration Reciprocity*. However, if the registrant has not completed the new registrant requirements of the regulatory college with which the applicant is currently registered, the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements* may apply.

registrants in attendance has significant home birth experience. If a new registrant wishes to attend home births with a registrant who is neither an experienced General nor Temporary Registrant, they must request for approval in writing to CMBC.

7. It is recommended that a new registrant attend home births with experienced General or Temporary Registrants until the requirements of this Policy have been met, unless the new registrant has significant home birth experience. Approval of second birth attendants for new registrants after the first six months of registration is contingent upon the new registrant having sufficient home birth experience.
8. If a new registrant is a Conditional Registrant, the terms and conditions set out in the new registrant's *Plan for Supervised Practice and Evaluation* must be met at all times. The new registrant's experience as a Conditional Registrant may count towards meeting the requirements of this Policy.
9. Upon completion of the requirements outlined in point 1, the new registrant will submit a completed *New Registrant Requirements Reporting Form* to CMBC. A new registrant cannot work as a solo practitioner until after they have submitted the *New Registrant Requirements Reporting Form* to CMBC and have received confirmation that they have met the requirements of point 1.
10. A new registrant will participate in peer case reviews a minimum of every two months reviewing a total of at least 12 cases in a minimum of six sessions. Each peer case review session will consist of at least four midwives, including a mentor midwife and the new registrant. At least one peer case review must include participation from midwives belonging to at least two different practice groups. Peer case reviews carried out by a group of midwives in a hospital department may count toward meeting the new registrant peer case review requirement. The new registrant will submit their *New Registrant Peer Case Review Log* to CMBC upon completion of this requirement.
11. Where a practice provides care to a significant number of clients with social or clinical risk factors or a higher than usual caseload volume, CMBC may ask the practice to provide a plan for the support and mentorship of the new registrant.

If a new registrant leaves BC to practice midwifery in another regulated Canadian jurisdiction prior to completing the new registrant requirements in BC, they may count the experience in the other jurisdiction towards meeting the CMBC new registrant requirements. Should the new registrant meet the new registrant requirements of the other regulated Canadian jurisdiction prior to returning to practice from non-practising or reinstatement of registration in BC, CMBC will request proof from the jurisdiction where the requirements have been met. Should the new registrant not meet the requirements of the other regulated Canadian jurisdiction, they will be asked to fill out CMBC's *New Registrant Requirements Reporting Form* and CMBC's *New Registrant Peer Case Review Log* with their experience from outside of BC. CMBC will evaluate the information provided to determine whether the registrant has met the CMBC requirements.

In special circumstances the Quality Assurance Committee will consider proposals from new registrants to establish a practice in an underserved community during their new registrant period submitted under the *Guideline for New Registrants Submitting a Proposal to Establish a Practice in an Underserved Community*.