

# 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 British Columbia (BC) and to ensure the safest possible care to their clients during the period when they are consolidating clinical skills. The support provided in both clinical and interprofessional situations is a valuable asset to all newly practicing midwives.

New registrants are recommended to work as close to full time as possible for at least the first year of practice, with the goal of meeting the initial practice requirements of the *Policy on Active Practice Requirements*. This is in order to consolidate their prior knowledge and experience and assist them in developing a solid foundation of confidence as a primary caregiver within the BC health care system. 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 initial active practice requirements.

## Definitions

**Caseload:** A client or group of clients for whom the midwife (and/or their team) has agreed to provide with primary care.

**Continuity of Care<sup>1</sup>:** 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:

- provides care consistent with the full scope of practice as described in the *Midwifery Model and Scope of Practice*;
- 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; and
- 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.

**Experienced Midwife:** A midwife who is not subject to the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements*.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in the *Bylaws for College of Midwives of British Columbia*.

**New Registrant:** A newly registered midwife in BC in their first 12 months of practice and/or a midwife who has not met the terms of this policy. Exception: Midwives who register through CMBC's *Policy on Inter-Provincial Registration Reciprocity* and who have successfully met the new registrant requirements of their previous province of practice will be assessed to determine whether they will be subject to the new registrant requirements.

**Principal Midwife:** The midwife who takes responsibility for and provides midwifery services as the primary care provider during the intrapartum period.

**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.

## Policy

All new registrants shall meet the following terms and conditions:

1. The new registrant works in an established practice sharing caseload with another midwife, midwives and/or primary care providers (if practicing within a CMBC approved alternate practice arrangement) who have agreed to provide mentorship in-person or by phone 24/7 for support and advice for:
  - a. a period of at least six months and
  - b. until the new registrant has provided care as principal midwife, in accordance with the principles of continuity of care, to at least 20 clients and their newborns<sup>2</sup>.
2. The new registrant submits a signed copy of the New Registrant Mentorship Agreement to CMBC for review and approval. If the new registrant chooses to work in more than one practice, a New Registrant Mentorship Agreement from each practice is submitted, reviewed and approved.
3. The new registrant does not work as a solo practitioner until they have submitted their *New Registrant Requirements Reporting Form – Part 1* to CMBC and has received confirmation that the requirements of point 1 above were successfully met.
4. The new registrant does not work exclusively in an alternate practice arrangement until they have received confirmation from CMBC that the requirements of point 1 above were successfully met. Should a new registrant work in an alternate practice arrangement in any capacity, they must give special consideration to how they will meet the initial requirements of the Policy on Active Practice Requirements.
5. The new registrant arranges for reasonable off-call time.
6. The new registrant working in the hospital setting works 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 BC.

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<sup>2</sup> Transfers of care may be counted for up to 20% of the 20 births, so long as the registrant remained as principal midwife following the transfer or, if care was transferred, continued to provide supportive care.

7. The new registrant only attends home births with experienced General or Temporary Registrants or physicians (if practicing in a CMBC-approved alternate practice arrangement) until the requirements of this Policy have been met. Exceptions may be requested in writing after the first six months of practice and considered by CMBC if a new registrant has significant home birth experience.
8. If a new registrant is a Conditional Registrant, that 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. The new registrant participate in a minimum of one peer case review every two months during their first 12 months of practice. Each peer case review will include a review of at least two cases and be attended by 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 the New Registrant Requirements Reporting Form – Part 2 to CMBC upon completion of this requirement.
10. When a practice provides care to clients with considerable risk factors, with a higher than usual caseload, or has unique geographical constraints, CMBC may ask the practice to provide a detailed mentorship plan for the new registrant before registration will be granted.
11. 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.
12. If a new registrant leaves BC to practice midwifery in another midwifery 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. 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.