

until the end of the eighth week after birth.

- Demonstrates professional behaviour at all times and promotes a positive image of the profession.
- Keeps clear, legible, and accurate records relevant to midwifery practice.

Standard 2: The midwife shall function at all times in accordance with the law and any legislative, regulatory, and policy guidelines relevant to registered midwifery practice.

Competencies

- Practices within the standards and competencies of the midwifery scope of practice, and the national/ organizational policies and procedures, to protect self, others and the profession.
- Practices in accordance with relevant laws and regulations that govern midwifery practice.
- Practices in a manner that conforms to the Professional Code of Ethics established by the SCFHS and the employer's code of conduct.
- Engages in ethical decision-making with respect to their own professional responsibilities or where ethical issues affect healthcare delivery or clinical decision-making.
- Maintains valid registration and licensure to practice.

Standard 3: The midwife shall practice and provide midwifery care with consideration of the socio-cultural needs of women and their families.

Competencies

- Acts as an advocate, protecting the woman's rights and those her family.
- Maintains confidentiality and follows the established policies of the institution to ensure the security of written, verbal, and electronic client information.
- Respects the woman's right to be fully informed, protecting her right to self-determination and informed consent.
- Respects the woman's right to autonomy, including the right to refuse treatments and clinical investigations.
- Respects and maintains the woman's right to privacy and dignity by providing kind and compassionate care.
- Offers advice and midwifery care sensitively and fairly, respecting the cultural

and social needs of each woman and her family and giving due consideration to diversity, including cultural and religious beliefs, race, age, gender, physical and mental state, and other relevant factors.

- Communicates and collaborates with other healthcare professionals and personnel to ensure ethical practice is maintained.
- Demonstrates professional integrity and ethical conduct in matters where a conflict of interest could be construed, especially when advising on the use of drugs, products, devices, or services.
- Raises concerns, using the appropriate escalation procedures, when she suspects that the practice of another health professional is putting the woman or her baby at increased risk. This can include the unnecessary application of technology during a low-risk, spontaneous labour and birth.
- prioritises women and their families interest in care. The registered midwife must make care and safety her main concerns, ensuring that the needs of the woman are recognized, assessed, and responded to at all times.

Domain Two: Family-Centred Care

Family-centred maternity and new-born care aims to increase the participation of women and their families in decision-making processes related to pregnancy, birth, and early postpartum experiences in order to promote optimal health and wellbeing for both mother and child (IPFC, 2017). Midwifery practice includes an emphasis on client-/family-/community-centred care and scope of practice. Decision-making must be evidence-based and must consider the choices and needs of the client. Midwifery care functions in partnership with the clients and their families and support network. This domain encompasses the key principles of the registered midwife's role in the facilitation of a healthy pregnancy and spontaneous birth and in supporting women and their families to adapt and recover during the postnatal period. The role includes assessment of the woman and her family's needs and advice on health promotion, illness prevention, and detection of complications during the antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal periods.