

Domain One: Professionalism and Ethical Practice

Professional practice is defined as a combination of standards of practice, midwife skills, and expected professional performance (ANA, 2010). The professional accountability and ethical practice of the registered midwife is defined in relation to clients, families, other members of the multidisciplinary team, the community, and society. The midwife works within the limits of her competencies, exercising professional 'duty of care' and raising concerns immediately when she suspects that the woman or her infant are at risk (ICM, 2014). Accountability cannot be achieved unless the midwife/nurse has the autonomy to practice. Autonomy ensures that midwives have the freedom to make discretionary and binding decisions in accordance with their scope of practice and to act on those decisions (MOH, 2019).

Standard 1: The midwife shall accept responsibility and be accountable for the quality of care delivered within the scope of knowledge acquired and skills gained.

Competencies

- Demonstrates accountability for own professional judgment, actions, outcomes of care, and continued competence in accordance with Scope of Practice and national legislation and regulations.
- Recognizes the boundaries of the scope of practice and the limits of one's own competence; consults and refers, as necessary, when the woman's needs exceed the competence of the registered midwife.
- Seeks appropriate guidance when encountering situations beyond the limits of her own competence and scope of practice.
- Provides competent autonomous care as the lead professional; treats pregnancy and labour as a normal physiological process.
- Acknowledges and respects the accountability and responsibilities of other healthcare professionals and personnel.
- Assumes accountability for the delegation of aspects of midwifery care.
- Participates in activities to optimise women's access to the full range of services required for effective midwifery care throughout the pre-conception period and

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