

Standard:	Routine Childhood Vaccinations
Reference #:	STCMO_C09252013
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	November 25, 2013
Date to be Reviewed:	April 2015
Rescinded:	June 1, 2018
Effective date:	January 1, 2014
Attachments:	none



ROUTINE CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

Purpose

This standard sets out the expectations for midwives who discuss routine childhood vaccinations with their clients.

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

Definition

Routine childhood vaccinations refer to all vaccines that are routinely administered to Ontario children commencing in early infancy, not including the Hepatitis B vaccine.

Background

The administration of routine childhood vaccinations on a midwife's own responsibility is not within the scope of midwifery in Ontario. Midwives are authorized to administer routine childhood vaccinations on the order of a physician. Vaccinations normally commence at two-months of age, after clients and their newborns are typically discharged from midwifery care. However, midwifery clients may have questions regarding routine vaccinations prior to receiving well-baby care from their family physician, pediatrician or nurse practitioner.

Standard

If clients wish to engage in a discussion with their midwife regarding routine vaccination, the midwife shall:

- Clearly inform the client that the administration of routine childhood vaccinations is outside the scope of midwifery.
- Inform the client of community standards and the Ontario vaccination schedule.
- Inform the client of the benefits and risks of vaccination supported by peer reviewed research evidence.
- Encourage clients to seek information from trusted sources, including other regulated health care providers in their circle of care, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada and the World Health Organization.
- Inform the client of the midwife's bias, if any.

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- Document the discussion on vaccine in the client's record.

Midwives should develop a practice protocol on the topic of routine childhood vaccinations to support them in providing consistent and accurate information to clients.

RESCINDED