Appendix E:
Comparison Between the Professional Standards and the College's current standards on informed choice, continuity of care and choice of birthplace.

The following tables show how the Professional Standards address the information contained in the current standards on continuity of care, informed choice and home and out-of-hospital birth

Table 1

Continuity of Care	
Current Standard	Professional Standards
Midwifery services available by the same small group of midwives from the onset of care.... [to] the first six weeks postpartum	Provide continuity of care throughout the course of a client's care by developing and maintaining an ongoing relationship of trust with your clients (standard 31) Establish and work within systems that are clear to clients when their care is shared between within a team of midwives (standard 32) Make every effort to ensure that a care provider known to the client is available to attend the birth (standard 32.5)
The practice must arrange for opportunities for the client to meet her assigned midwives to support the provision of care by known midwives	Make every effort to ensure that a care provider known to the client is available to attend the birth (standard 32.5)
One of the small group of midwives must be identified as the Coordinating Midwife. ...The client must be made aware of which midwife is her Coordinating Midwife.	Ensure that clients and health care providers know who is the most responsible provider throughout their care, including delegations, consultations and transfers of care (standard 37)
The Coordinating Midwife must make a best effort to ensure that the small group of midwives makes the time commitment necessary to develop a relationship of trust...	Provide continuity of care throughout the course of a client's care by developing and maintaining an ongoing relationship of trust with your clients (standard 31)

24-hour availability of at least one of the group of midwives	Ensure clients have 24-hour access to midwifery care throughout pregnancy, birth and postpartum or, where midwifery care is not available, to suitable alternate care known to each client (standard 22)
Consistent philosophy of care and a coordinated approach to clinical practice	Not included in Professional Standards because a philosophy cannot have a minimum standard. Replaced with "follow consistent care plans agreed upon by all the midwives in the team" (standard 32.2)

Table 2

Informed Choice	
Current	Professional Standards
Foster a relationship of trust	Provide continuity of care throughout the course of a client's care by developing and maintaining an ongoing relationship of trust with your clients (standard 31)
Provide relevant information in a collaborative and non-authoritarian manner	Listen to clients and provide information in ways they can understand (standard 19) Recognize clients as the primary decision-makers and provide informed choice in all aspects of care (standard 21)
Consider the experience, feelings, beliefs, values and preferences of the client	Person-centred care recognizes the central role the client has in their own health care, and responds to their unique needs, values and preferences (Principle on person-centred care)
Make best efforts to ensure the client fully understands all relevant information prior to making a decision	[Make] every effort to understand and appreciate what is motivating their choices (standard 21.2)
Allow adequate time for decision-making by the client	[Allow clients] adequate time for decision-making (standard 21.3)
Support the client's decision	[Support clients'] right to accept or refuse treatment (standard 21.4)

Information about the benefits, risk and alternatives to procedures, tests and medications	[Provide clients] with the potential benefits, risks, and alternatives to procedures, tests and medications (standard 21.5)
Relevant information regarding midwifery scope of practice and CMO standards of care	[Provide] information so they feel fully informed when making decisions about their care (standard 21.1)
Relevant information about community standards	[Provide] information so they feel fully informed when making decisions about their care (standard 21.1)
Relevant research evidence including any deficiency of clear evidence	[Provide] information so they feel fully informed when making decisions about their care (standard 21.1)
Identification of the midwife's bias, if significant	Ensure that your personal biases do not adversely affect client care (standard 26)
Recommendations that are supported by evidence, CMO standards and community standards	Provide treatments consistent with the standards of the profession, and based on the current and accepted evidence (standard 8)
Midwives must document all Informed choice discussions and recommendations.	Maintain contemporaneous, accurate, objective and legible records of the care that was provided during client care [including] information given to clients and a reasonable belief that it has been understood (standard 6.4)
Discuss anticipated emergencies and make every effort to involve the client the decision-making	Recognize clients as the primary decision-makers and provide informed choice in all aspects of care (standard 21)
If the member is incapacitated, refer to the health care consent act	You must always act in accordance with the law. The Professional Standards is not a substitute for legislation and regulations that govern the midwifery profession in Ontario (Professional Standards overview).
If the choice is outside of scope or standards, or would put the client at risk, refer to the CMO standard *When a Client Chooses Care Outside Midwifery Standards of Practice*	[Support] their right to accept or refuse treatment (standard 21.4)

Table 3

Home and Out-of-Hospital Birth	
Current	Professional Standards
Maintain competency in providing care in all settings	Maintain core competencies and ensure you have the training and skills required to perform advanced competencies that are part of your practice (standard 1)
Maintain competency in the management of obstetrical emergencies	Maintain core competencies and ensure you have the training and skills required to perform advanced competencies that are part of your practice (standard 1)
Maintain hospital privileges	Not included in Professional Standards because maintaining hospital privileges is a hospital policy and not a College requirement
Comply with all CMO standards	You must comply with all College Standards (Professional Standards overview).
Provide clients with informed choice discussions regarding planned place of birth as per the CMO standard on Informed Choice	Provide clients with a choice between home and hospital births (standard 23).
Inform clients of the management of common obstetrical emergencies at out-of-hospital versus hospital settings	[Provide] information so they feel fully informed when making decisions about their care (standard 21.1)
Inform clients that the excellent outcome data on homebirth is dependent on screening for complications	[Provide] information so they feel fully informed when making decisions about their care (standard 21.1)
Appropriately screen clients throughout the course of care and use clinical judgement to make recommendations regarding place of birth	Know, understand and adhere to the standards of the profession and other relevant standards that affect your practice (standard 3)
Support the client's choice of birthplace	Provide care during labour and birth in the setting chosen by clients (standard 24)
Ensure safe transport to hospital for emergency situations	Know, understand and adhere to the standards of the profession and other relevant standards that affect your practice (standard 3)