

SECOND BIRTH ATTENDANT STANDARD

Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to set out the College's requirements for midwives working with a second birth attendant.

Definitions

Second Birth Attendant means an individual, other than a midwife registered with the College of Midwives of Ontario, who works with a midwife to provide care during labour, birth and the immediate postpartum, not in a subsequent postpartum visit. A second birth attendant may be a care provider who is regulated as a member of a health regulatory College in Ontario or who is an unregulated care provider.

Unregulated care provider means a care provider who is neither registered nor licensed by a regulatory body and who has no legally defined scope of practice.

Standard

1. A midwife working with a second birth attendant must be registered in the general class without new registrant conditions.
2. A midwife must be confident that the second birth attendant they are working with has the knowledge, skill, and judgment to provide competent, respectful, and ethical care.
3. A midwife is accountable for the care provided by a second birth attendant who is unregulated¹ and is responsible for ensuring that a second birth attendant provides care in accordance with relevant practice standards, community standards and clinical practice guidelines.
4. A Midwife working with a second birth attendant must:
 - a) be in attendance during the provision of care by the second birth attendant
 - b) ensure the second birth attendant documents in the client record in accordance with the College's standards of practice

¹ Second birth attendants who are regulated with another health regulatory college, such as the College of Nurses of Ontario, are accountable to their college for the care they provide within their scope of practice.

- c) delegate controlled acts in accordance with the College's standards of practice
 - d) ensure the client understands the role of the second birth attendant during the client's care
 - e) ensure the second birth attendant is competent to assist in the provision of care during neonatal resuscitation
5. When working with a second birth attendant who is not practicing in their capacity as an employee or privileged staff of a hospital or birthing centre, a midwife must:
- a) ensure the second birth attendant has attended and successfully completed a college approved course or program in obstetrical emergency skills in the past 24 months (every 2 years); and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the past 24 months (every 2 years).
 - b) ensure the midwife's professional liability insurance extends to cover the care provided by the second birth attendant
 - c) obtain informed consent from the client to the participation of a second birth attendant

References (legislative and other)

Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c. 18

Professional Standards for Midwives (June 2018)

Record Keeping Standard for Midwives (January 2013)

Continuing competency requirements and approved courses (September 2018)

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