MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN PEI

Midwives are regulated and registered healthcare providers under the Registered Health Professions Act in PEI. Midwives provide care for pregnant people and their newborn's as primary health care professionals.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Midwives provide preconception counselling, full prenatal care, labor and birth services (hospital and home birth), full postpartum care in hospital or home, and postnatal care up to 8 weeks.

Midwives are experts in low-risk, healthy pregnancy. When complications/conditions outside of a midwife's scope arise, a midwife will consult with the appropriate health care provider to ensure a client receives the care needed. A midwife may remain the primary care provider following consultation, work in a shared care model, or assume a supportive role while the client receives care from another provider.

Medications prescribed by midwives:

Midwives prescribe and administer a variety of medications, including analgesics, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, contraceptives, lactation aids, uterotonics, immune globulins, narcotics, among many others.

Epidural, augmentation, or induction of labour:

Midwives are trained to manage births when an epidural, augmentation, or induction of labour is required, working collaboratively with other members of the health care team.

HOME BIRTH

Based on Canadian research, home birth is a safe option for low-risk clients who are attended by Registered Midwives. Midwives carry extensive equipment in order to manage normal birth, and emergencies if they arise. This includes supplies, medications and resuscitation equipment.

MIDWIFERY TRAINING & SAFE CARE

Midwives complete a four-year baccalaureate program in midwifery, offered by an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada. Midwives who have trained internationally complete a bridging program through an accredited midwifery education program in Canada.

In addition, midwives maintain competency, certification, and complete courses in: (a) fetal health surveillance; (b) neonatal resuscitation; (c) cardiopulmonary resuscitation; (d) obstetrical emergency skills; and (e) prescribing and administering controlled drugs and substances.

Midwifery scope of practice:

Conducts relevant clinical assessments and orders, performs, and interprets screening and diagnostic tests	Manage epidural, augmentation and induction of labour collaboratively with other members of the health care team
Formulates appropriate care plan based on sound analysis of assessment findings	Performs routine newborn care and assessments from birth to 8 weeks
Routinely performs point of care testing	Provides breast/chest-feeding support
Prescribes a variety of medications, some of which include analgesics, antibiotics, contraceptives, lactation aids, uterotonics, immune globulins and narcotics	Order or apply electrical energy in the form of phototherapy in a hospital
Manage labour and birth both in and out of hospital settings	Routine cervical screening and insertion/removal of a contraception device
Repair 1st and 2nd degree tears	An expanded scope of practice of a midwife may include surgical first assist for cesarean section

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Midwives will be part of and communicate through existing documentation platforms which are currently used in PEI (CHR, CERNER, CIS). As employees of PEI, midwives will be integrated into the health care team.

LIABILITY & RISK

Midwives carry their own professional liability insurance through HIROC. A Joint Position Statement on Liability Protection for Midwives and Physicians (HIROC and CMPA) was created to support collaborative relationships within the provision of care.

PRACTICE SETTING

Midwives have a community clinic space where clients will be seen during the pre – and postpartum period of their care. As employees, midwives can admit and discharge their clients to hospital.

INTAKE PROCESS

Midwives are able to accept self-referrals or referrals from other providers.

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canadianmidwives.org

PEIMA
www.peima.ca

Health PEI
healthPEI.ca