

BCCNM and Midwifery Practice

Understanding how midwifery is regulated in British Columbia (B.C.) and what role the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) plays in that process is essential to safe and accountable practice. This module is focused on BCCNM's role in regulating midwifery and what that means for you as a midwife in B.C. It's not just about rules and regulations. It's about protecting the public and supporting you to deliver safe, competent, ethical and culturally safe care.

By the end of the module you will be able to:

- Explain how midwifery is regulated in B.C.
- Describe BCCNM's purpose and main functions.
- Differentiate between the roles of BCCNM (the regulator) and the Midwives Association of British Columbia (MABC).
- Recognize other organizations that support midwifery in B.C. and Canada.

Note: This module is designed specifically for midwives. If you're a nurse, please refer to the separate modules created for nursing practice.

Estimated time: 15 mins

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Territorial acknowledgement



We acknowledge the rights and title of the First Nations, whose collective unceded territories encompass the land base colonially known as British Columbia. We give specific thanks to the hən(̓)q(̓)əmin(̓)əm(̓) speaking peoples—the x(̓)məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and sel'íl'witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations—and the Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Sníchim speaking peoples—the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)—on whose unceded territories BCCNM's office is located. We also give thanks for the medicines of these territories and recognize that laws, governance, and health systems tied to these lands and waters have existed here for over 9,000 years.

We also acknowledge the unique and distinct rights, including rights to health and wellness, of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples from elsewhere in Canada who now live in British Columbia. As leaders in the settler health system, we acknowledge our responsibilities to these rights under international, national, and provincial law.


Midwifery as a regulated profession

In B.C., midwifery has been a regulated health profession since 1995. Regulation gives midwives in B.C. the authority to practice within a defined scope, protects their professional title, and ensures accountability through regulatory oversight.

What is a regulated profession?

A regulated health professional is licensed by a regulatory body (like the BC College of Nurses and Midwives) and can legally perform specific health-care activities. Unregulated providers are not licensed by a regulatory body and don't have a regulated scope of practice or the authority to perform restricted activities.

For example: Currently, midwives, nurses, doctors, pharmacists and physiotherapists are regulated health professionals whereas care aids and lab technicians are unregulated health professionals.



In B.C., midwifery is a regulated profession, which means there are laws and standards that define and regulate midwifery practice.

The laws that govern midwifery practice are set by the B.C. government, while standards are set by BCCNM in accordance with these laws. BCCNM protects the public by ensuring midwives are qualified and competent.

When practising midwifery, it is important to understand applicable legislation and regulation — it guides your practice, helps you stay within professional boundaries and supports the safety of your clients.



Please note that the information provided in this module is current as of today. However, changes to legislation and midwifery regulation are anticipated. Stay informed by regularly checking [BCCNM announcements](#) and reading the midwifery newsletter.

Fact or fiction?

Health care legislation and midwifery regulation might seem confusing. Let's see how well you can separate fact from fiction.

Read the statements below and decide whether each one is fact or fiction.

Midwifery regulations are the same across Canada.

Fiction: Each province and territory has its own regulatory body and midwives' regulation. The scope of practice, registration requirements, and other aspects can vary between jurisdictions.

There is an Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility and Anti-Racism practice standard.

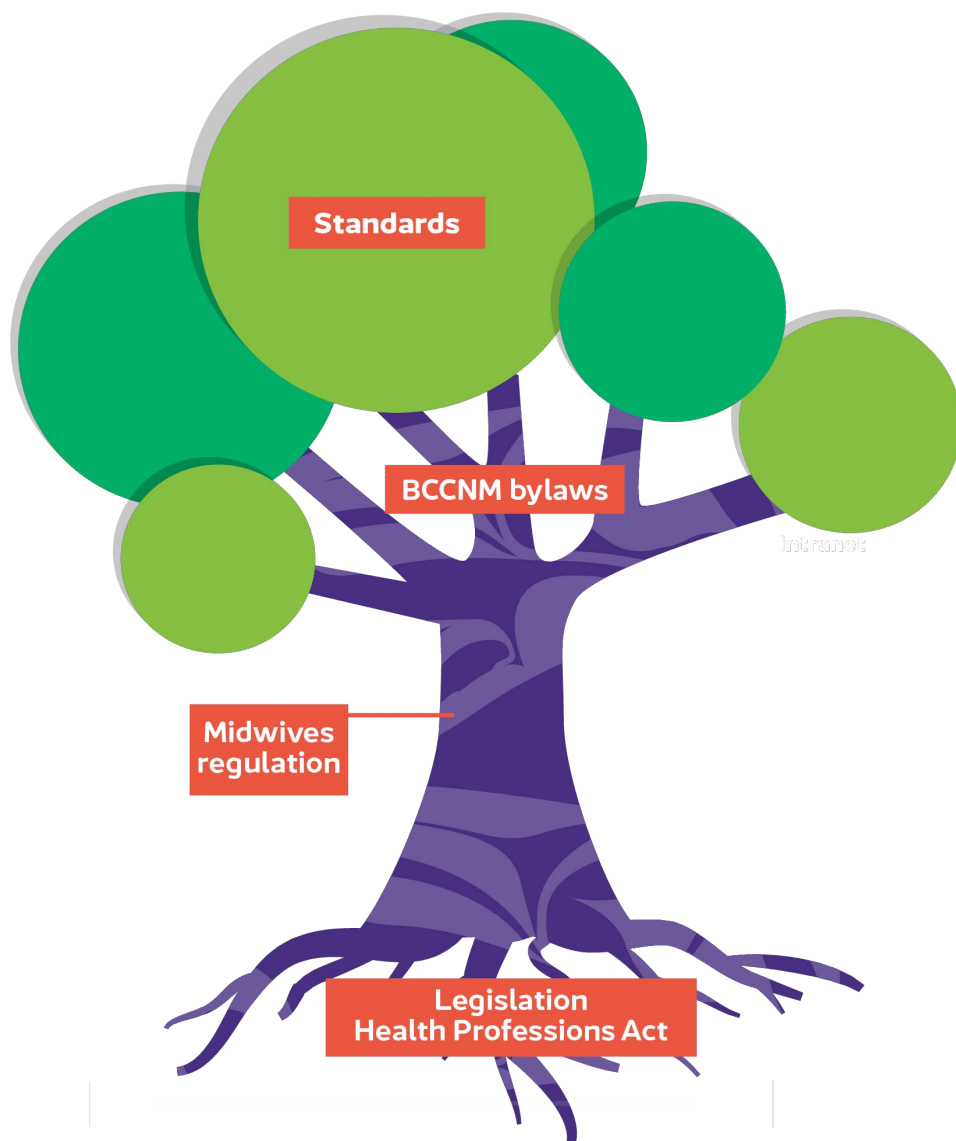
Fact: In 2022, BCCNM introduced the practice standard that sets clear expectations for how BCCNM registrants are to provide culturally safe and anti-racist care for Indigenous clients and their families.

Midwives can practice without licensing (registration) in B.C.

Fiction: In B.C., it is illegal to practice midwifery without being licensed by BCCNM. BCCNM regulates midwifery practice to ensure public safety and uphold professional standards.

How did you do? Whether you got them all or missed a few, it's all part of the learning process. Take a moment to reflect and then move on to explore more.

Regulatory framework



The regulation of midwifery practice in B.C. is like a tree.

Legislation forms the roots, providing legal authority.

Regulation is the trunk, defining professions specific details.

BCCNM bylaws are the branches, guiding operations, and standards are the leaves, shaping daily practice.

The current provincial legislation relevant to midwives is the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, transitioning to the *Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)* in April 2026. BCCNM enforces bylaws and standards to ensure safe, competent, ethical, and culturally safe midwifery care.

Here is a brief overview of relevant legislation and regulation.

Legislation —

In the B.C. context, legislation refers to statutes or acts passed by the B.C. government. The current provincial legislation relevant to midwives is the ***Health Professions Act (HPA)***. The *HPA* regulates the majority of B.C.'s health professions, and each health profession has its own regulation under the *HPA*.

Examples of the topics addressed in current legislation include:

- The duties and objects of a health profession college under the *HPA*,
- The legal consequences for using a reserved title without being licensed,
- The protections the *Act* provides for individuals who report misconduct or incompetence.

In April 2026, the new ***Health Professions and Occupations Act (HPOA)*** will become the guiding legislation for health professions in B.C., including midwifery.

Midwives Regulation —

Midwives Regulation is also law that is created under the authority of the *HPA*. It defines legal details specific to the midwifery profession, including what midwives are legally allowed to practice in B.C.

For example, Midwives Regulation:


- Defines key terms like “midwifery”, “patient” and “midwifery diagnosis”,
- Describes restricted activities that fall into legal scope of practice for midwives and legal limits or conditions on those activities,
- Contains midwifery-specific drug schedules.

Under HPOA, midwives and nurses regulations will be combined into one document – Nurses and Midwives Regulation.

Other relevant laws for midwives —

As regulated health professionals, midwives also need to follow other federal and provincial laws, like the *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*; *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*; *Child, Family and Community Service Act* and others.

Indigenous Peoples



Indigenous cultural safety, cultural humility, and anti-racism are essential for fostering trust and respect in midwifery care. Midwives are empowered to address systemic inequities and provide culturally safe, inclusive support for Indigenous clients.

To help midwives provide culturally safe care to Indigenous clients, it's important to know about the laws and agreements that support the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Two key examples are the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and *B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)*. These documents provide information on the rights of Indigenous Peoples that health care providers, including midwives, must uphold.

UNDRIP

[UNDRIP](#) is a human rights declaration adopted by the United Nations in 2007. It sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.



DRIPA

[DRIPA](#), passed in B.C. in 2019, legally commits the province to align its laws with UNDRIP. It provides a framework for upholding Indigenous rights in provincial programs, services, and legislation.



What do *UNDRIP* and *DRIPA* mean for midwives?

The broad concepts set out in *UNDRIP* and *DRIPA* are among those set out in the BCCNM Indigenous Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility & Anti-Racism practice standard. By applying this standard to your practice, you:

1. Practise culturally safe and anti-racist care

Midwives are expected to recognize and actively work against anti-Indigenous racism in health care. Providing culturally safe, trauma-informed care is a part of ethical and professional nursing practice.

Midwives critically reflect on their own assumptions, power, and privilege when caring for Indigenous clients and families.

2. Respect informed consent and self-determination

UNDRIP affirms Indigenous Peoples' right to make decisions about their own health care. Midwives support informed consent, respect traditional healing practices, and recognize client's rights in decision-making.

3. Respect Indigenous Peoples ways of knowing and being.

DRIPA pushes health professionals to recognize Indigenous laws and systems of knowledge. Midwives are responsible for providing culturally safe and anti-racist care to Indigenous clients, families, and communities.

4. Continue your learning journey.

Midwives engage in ongoing education to ensure they provide culturally safe care. This may include education on colonialism, Indigenous health disparities, and the history of residential schools. BCCNM's standards reflect this as part of the duty to provide safe, ethical, and person-centred care.

Check out BCCNM's learning resource page on Cultural safety and humility.

What you need to do

Incorporate the following practices to promote cultural safety and humility in health-care. By following these practices, you will learn how to reflect on personal biases, integrate inclusive practices into your daily routines, and advocate for systemic changes that support Indigenous health and rights.

Step 1. Learn



Learn about *UNDRIP* and *DRIPA* and how they apply to health care.

Step 2. Reflect



Reflect on personal biases and how they may impact Indigenous clients.

Step 3. Understand



Understand that clients are the leaders in their care and provide care in accordance with their values and beliefs.

Step 4. Integrate



Integrate cultural safety into daily practice, documentation, and communication.

Step 5. Acknowledge and support



Acknowledge and support Indigenous healing practices when providing care.

Step 6. Advocate



Advocate for systemic changes that support Indigenous rights and health equity.

In the following lessons we will take a closer look at BCCNM and how it regulates midwifery practice.

What is the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)

This section will provide an overview of BCCNM, its functions and what role it plays in midwifery practice. We invite you to reflect on what you already know about the College.

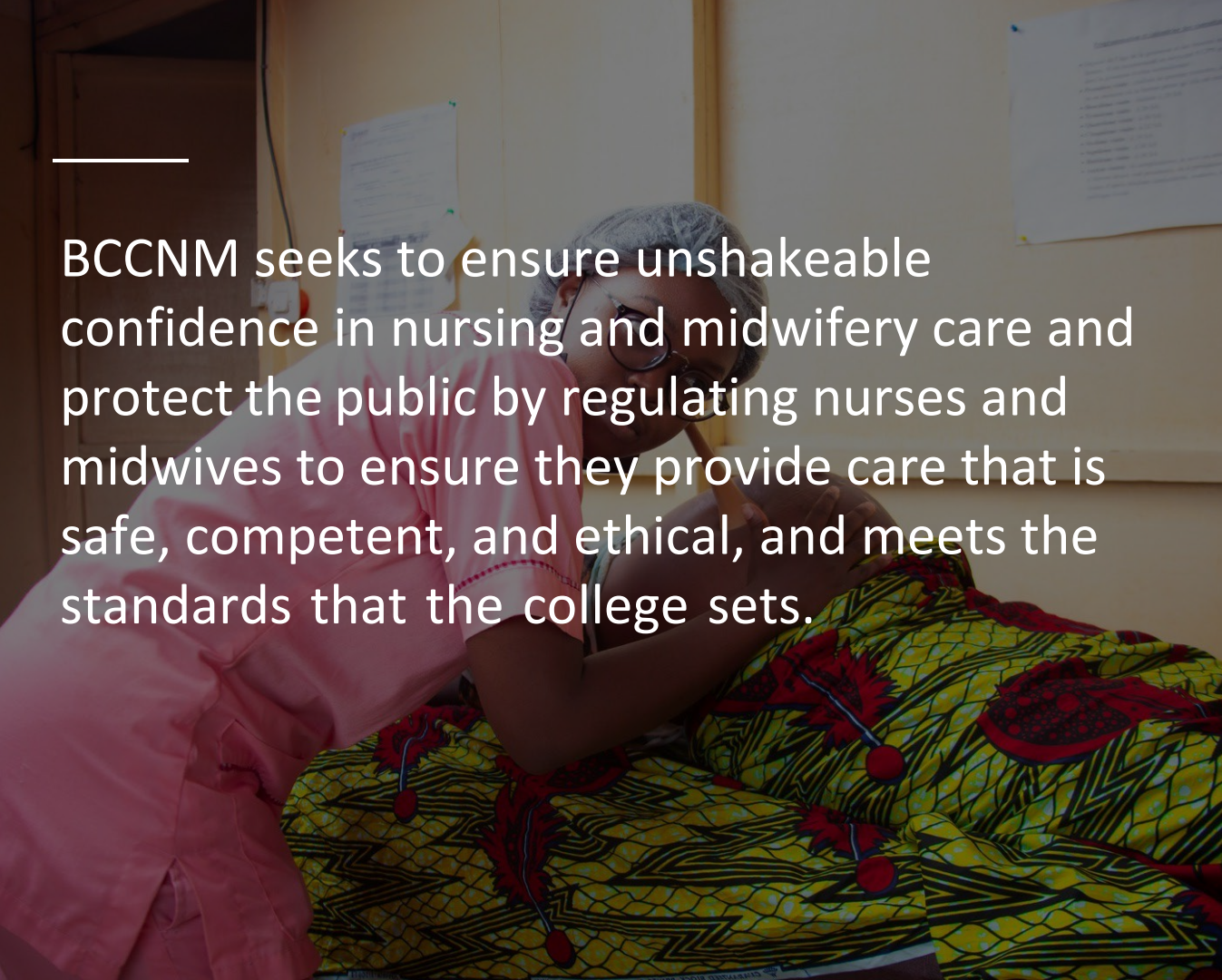
It is not a test, and all questions will be covered later in the section.

Choose all statements that you believe are true.

- A. If you have graduated from a midwifery program with a bachelor's degree, it is legal to practice midwifery in B.C. without being licensed with BCCNM.
- B. The Quality Assurance (QA) Program administered by BCCNM is mandatory for all registered midwives.
- C. BCCNM applies an anti-racist lens to its operations and upholds the principles of UNDRIP and *DRIPA*.
- D. BCCNM provides liability insurance and negotiates compensation on behalf of midwives.
- E. BCCNM's main role is to discipline midwives who make mistakes.
- F. BCCNM investigates concerns about midwives to protect the public and uphold professional standards.
- G. Licensed midwives must renew their licences with BCCNM annually and meet quality assurance requirements.
- H. BCCNM sets standards for safe, competent, and ethical midwifery care.
- I. BCCNM provides business advice and resources to help midwives set up private practice.

What is BCCNM?

BCCNM stands for the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives. Its legal mandate under the *HPA/HPOA* is to protect the public by ensuring nurses and midwives provide safe, competent, ethical, and culturally safe care. Think of BCCNM as the safety net that ensures high standards for client care. BCCNM's job is to ensure nurses and midwives practice safely and meet required standards. It regulates the professions and ensures nurses and midwives have the right skills and knowledge to care for the public.

A photograph of a nurse with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a pink short-sleeved uniform, leaning over a patient in a hospital bed. The patient is covered with a yellow and green patterned blanket. The background shows a hospital room with a white wall and some papers pinned to it.

BCCNM seeks to ensure unshakeable confidence in nursing and midwifery care and protect the public by regulating nurses and midwives to ensure they provide care that is safe, competent, and ethical, and meets the standards that the college sets.

Building an anti-racist culture

BCCNM is working to address Indigenous-specific racism in our health-care system and workplace and upholds the principles of the *UNDRIP* and *DRIPA* toward cultural safety and humility. We apply an anti-racist lens to our organizational processes, communications, standards, interactions, and daily operations, and promote a “speak-up” culture.



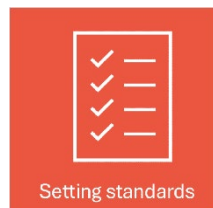
[BCCNM's commitment to action 2025: Redressing harm to Indigenous Peoples in the health-care system](#)

BCCNM's core functions

What does BCCNM do?



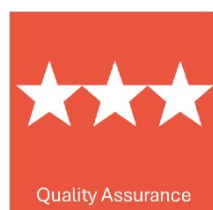
Licensing (registration): Nurses and midwives must be licensed (registered) with BCCNM to legally practice in B.C.



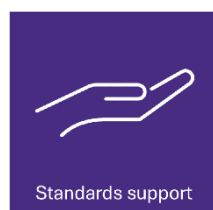
Setting standards: BCCNM sets standards for nursing and midwifery practice and outlines clear expectations for how nurses and midwives deliver care.



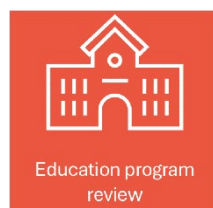
Inquiry, discipline and monitoring: BCCNM investigates complaints and takes action to protect the public from unethical or unsafe practice.



Quality assurance (QA): BCCNM's QA program helps midwives grow in their profession by requiring to engage in formal and self-directed performance assessments, practice reflection, and lifelong learning.



Standards support: BCCNM offers guidance to nurses and midwives on how to understand, interpret and apply standards, especially in new or tricky situations.



Education program review: BCCNM ensures that nursing and midwifery programs in B.C. meet the necessary standards to prepare graduates for safe practice.

Now let's dive deeper into each of the functions and what role it plays in midwifery practice.

Licensing

To practice in B.C., a midwife must be licensed (registered) with BCCNM. Licensing gives a midwife the right to practice midwifery in B.C. Being licensed means that:

- The midwife has qualifications, education, and skills to provide safe, competent, and ethical care.
- The midwife is accountable to BCCNM's standards and ongoing professional development.

You can learn more about licensing on [BCCNM website](#).

Which of the following statements is true about the licensing of midwives with BCCNM?

- A. Licensing grants the right to practice midwifery legally in B.C.
- B. Licensing includes free business coaching for private practices.
- C. Once licensed, no further education is required.
- D. Licensing is optional if a midwife completed their midwifery education in B.C.

Quality Assurance Program

As the regulatory body, BCCNM is legally required to improve professional performance and promote high standards of practice among midwives.

Participation in the quality assurance program is part of a midwife's licensing requirements (i.e., mandatory) and is one way midwives can demonstrate professional responsibility and accountability by engaging in activities that promote:

- Ongoing reflection on practice and identification of learning needs.
- Lifelong learning to support continuing competence and evidence-based practice.
- Practice that is culturally safe, culturally humble, anti-racist, and non-discriminatory.

Examples of QA program activities include self-assessments, peer feedback, professional development planning and evaluation of learning on practice, midwifery peer case reviews and more. You can find more details on the [QA program page](#) of the BCCNM website.

Which of the following is not true about the QA program?

- A. The QA program promotes professional growth and development through self-reflective activities and continuous learning.
- B. The QA program assesses midwives' competence through formal exams.
- C. The QA program performs assessments to ensure nurses and midwives are meeting standards.
- D. The QA program has the authority to recommend remedial activities to address areas for improvement identified through a QA assessment.

Standards Support

Sometimes a midwife may face a situation where they need support to apply standards to practice.

BCCNM is committed to offering resources and guidance to help midwives meet professional standards.

Examples of support:

- Learning resources related to specific standards are [available on the website](#). BCCNM's newsletter is a good way to find about newly published resources.
- Midwives can get guidance from a Standards Consultant by using the [Standards Support intake form](#).

Imagine, you're unsure how a specific BCCNM standard applies to a new clinical situation. What's the best step?

- A. Fully rely on what a colleague tells you to do
- B. Skip it and document your own interpretation
- C. Check the BCCNM website and, if needed, contact Standards Support
- D. Follow the recommendation from midwifery Facebook group.

Inquiry, Discipline, and Monitoring

BCCNM supports the highest standards of midwifery care and helps to ensure integrity of the midwifery profession. If BCCNM receives a complaint about the safety and/or quality of a midwife's care, BCCNM can investigate and take any action necessary to protect the public and ensure midwives provide services that meet provincial regulation and BCCNM standards.

Common investigative steps include obtaining relevant medical records, conducting interviews, reviewing relevant health-care policies and procedures, and seeking the midwife's input into the concerns that were raised about their practice.

More information can be found on the [complaints and discipline page](#) of the BCCNM website.

Is it true?

BCCNM only addresses concerns if a client experiences harm.

BCCNM only addresses concerns if a client experiences harm

- A. True
- B. False

Education Program Review

BCCNM reviews and recognizes [midwifery](#) and [nursing education programs](#) in B.C. to ensure they meet the indicators approved by BCCNM's board. Graduates from a BCCNM recognized program meet the entry-level competencies for licensing with BCCNM.

If you hold a teaching position at the nursing or midwifery program in B.C., this program might be an additional point of contact with BCCNM.

Why does BCCNM review and recognize midwifery education programs in B.C.?

- A. To ensure programs meet BCCNM board-approved entry-level competencies.
- B. To publish the rating of midwifery schools and help students choose the best program.
- C. To help the midwifery programs obtain a licence from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education.
- D. To allow the graduates from recognized programs to automatically become a licensed midwife.

Great work! You have learned about BCCNM, its purpose and functions.

Next, we'll take a closer look at how BCCNM regulates midwifery practice.

How BCCNM regulates midwifery practice

Midwives are there for some of life's most meaningful moments, supporting people through pregnancy, birth, and beyond. To help midwives do this safely and confidently, BCCNM sets rules (bylaws, standards, limits & conditions) that guide their practice. Let's take a closer look at how it all works.

BCCNM bylaws



The BCCNM bylaws are the official rules that guide how the college operates and regulates nurses and midwives. For example, they explain how the organization is governed, the role of committees, registration and renewal requirements and fees, quality assurance expectations, and requirements related to complaints.

The bylaws also outline that professionals must follow practice and ethical standards, expectations for client records, and what titles may be used by nurses and midwives. Overall, they ensure that BCCNM can protect the public by making sure all registrants meet high standards for safe, ethical, and competent care.

Examples of topics addressed in the bylaws:

- Registration classes for midwives (e.g. practising, provisional).
- How the BCCNM board is elected.
- The fees for initial registration and annual renewal for midwives.

Standards

A woman with her hair in a bun is sitting on a rocky ledge, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. She is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. A baby in a yellow and grey carrier is strapped to her back. The background features rolling green hills, distant mountains, and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "BCCNM establishes standards for nurses and midwives that guide and support them to work within their scope of practice to provide safe, competent, ethical, and culturally safe care." is overlaid in white on the image.

BCCNM establishes standards for nurses and midwives that guide and support them to work within their scope of practice to provide safe, competent, ethical, and culturally safe care.

Standards outline the minimum practice or ethical expectations for midwives' competencies, clinical practice and professional conduct. They are established and enforced by BCCNM. Standards are principle-based — it means they provide broad guidance rather than detailed instructions, allowing midwives to apply their professional judgment in different situations while still meeting regulatory expectations.

For example, the [Home and Community Birth practice standard](#) sets the expectation for the midwife to provide information on birth setting risks, benefits, and options, ensuring clients make informed decisions.



Designed by [Freepik](#)

Some of the questions that can be answered by looking at the BCCNM standards:

- If pharmacy services aren't available, what information must a midwife include on a dispensed medication label?
- What are the requirements for additional attendants at a home birth?
- What does a midwife need to consider if a client requests care that is considered outside standards?

Limits and Conditions

Limits and conditions accompany certain standards. For example, [Screening and Diagnostic Tests and Imaging: Standards, Limits and Conditions](#) includes three standards and four limits/conditions.

Limits

Limits are restrictions set by BCCNM or regulation.

An example of a limit: Midwives may not order any types of imaging other than ultrasound.



Conditions

Conditions outline the specific requirements that must be met to perform certain activities within midwifery practice. Like limits, conditions are mandatory and cannot be selectively followed.

An example of a condition: Until a midwife meets the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements*, their additional attendant must be a practicing, provisional, or temporary emergency midwife registrant who has met the *Policy on New Registrant Requirements* and is competent to provide home and/or community intrapartum care.

Specialized practice

Some midwives may obtain specialized practice certification in areas, such as surgical first assist to cesarean section, acupuncture, hormonal contraceptive therapy and others.

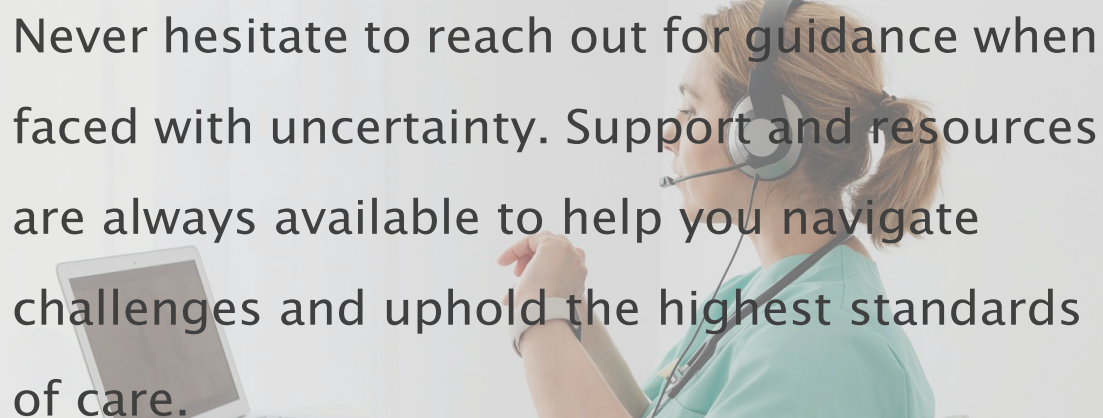
The **requirements** for the training and quality assurance requirements to maintain certification can be found on the BCCNM website.



Need help?

Standards Consultants are available if you have questions about understanding or applying the standards to practice. To connect with a Standards Consultant, fill out our [Standards Support Intake Form](#).

How BCCNM supports midwifery practice

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a light blue medical scrub top and a headset with a microphone. She is sitting at a desk with a laptop and glasses, looking towards the right. The image is semi-transparent, with text overlaid on it.

Never hesitate to reach out for guidance when faced with uncertainty. Support and resources are always available to help you navigate challenges and uphold the highest standards of care.

Now that you've learned about BCCNM's role and functions, you can see that BCCNM is not just a regulatory body. By providing clear standards and access to standards support and learning resources, BCCNM helps ensure that you can deliver safe and competent care. Whether you need advice on ethical dilemmas, clarification on standards, or resources to enhance your

understanding, BCCNM is there to assist you. Our commitment to fostering a culture of learning and accountability makes us an essential partner in your professional career.

Here's how BCCNM can assist:

- ✓ Quality assurance activities to help you set professional development goals.
- ✓ Standards consultations to clarify questions about scope of practice, applying standards, or navigating complex situations.

Learning resources like modules, videos, and case studies to help you apply standards.

Monthly newsletters to keep you up to date on changes that may impact your practice.

[Surveys](#) to help registrants stay engaged and updated.



You have explored how BCCNM regulates and supports midwives.
It's time to look at other organizations that play a role in shaping midwifery practice
in B.C.

BCCNM and midwifery organizations in B.C. and Canada

BCCNM regulates midwives in B.C., but what do other organizations do?

Provincial organizations

Each province or territory has its own regulatory body and often a professional association. In British Columbia BCCNM is a regulatory body and Midwives Association of BC (MABC) is the professional association. Take a closer look at what they do:

	Regulator	Association
Name	BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)	Midwives Association of BC (MABC)
Purpose or mandate	Protects the public by ensuring midwives meet required standards for safe, competent, and ethical care through a legislated legally binding mandate.	Represents and advocates for the Midwifery profession in B.C., advancing the development, sustainability, and integration of midwifery services across the province.
Responsibilities	Establishes the conditions or requirements for registration with BCCNM; sets and enforces standards; promotes safe, competent care by requiring midwives to meet quality assurance requirements; addresses concerns about midwives and midwifery care; recognizes education programs and courses.	Advocates for midwifery's role in healthcare; negotiates with government to improve compensation, benefits, and working conditions; delivers programs and services such as continuing education, liability insurance, and rural locum support; and fosters the growth of Indigenous and culturally safe midwifery care.

<p>Examples of questions to address to each organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do I report a concern about a midwife's conduct? • Am I eligible to register as a midwife in B.C.? • Can I prescribe and administer for a pain relief medication? • What is the process of renewing my licence each year? • What are the expectations for documentation and record-keeping in midwifery practice? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the current compensation model for midwives work in B.C.? • What benefits and supports (e.g., parental leave, insurance) are available to me as a member? • How do I access funding for continuing education or leadership development? • Who can I talk to about practice challenges, burnout, or locum coverage? • How is MABC advocating for changes to improve midwifery integration, scope, or equity?
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Imagine you are starting a new practice and have a question about incorporation. Where would you most likely find the information you need? Select all that apply.

- A. BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)
- B. BC Registries and Online Services
- C. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- D. Midwives Association of BC (MABC)
- E. BC Midwives Protection Program (BCMPP)

National organizations

Besides BCCNM and MABC, there are also organizations that operate on the national level. These organizations support midwifery across Canada, providing advocacy, guidance, and collaboration.

Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

[CMRC](#) brings together provincial/territorial midwifery regulators; responsible for the national midwifery registration exam and regulatory collaboration.



Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) —

[CAM](#) is a national professional association representing midwives, advocating for the profession, equity, and Indigenous midwifery.



National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM) —

[NCIM](#) promotes excellence in reproductive health care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women as well as the restoration and growth of Indigenous midwifery across Canada.



NCIM

**NATIONAL COUNCIL of
INDIGENOUS MIDWIVES**

Fantastic! You have almost completed the module.
Continue to the short quiz!

Quiz

Welcome to the quiz section. This is an opportunity to assess your understanding of the key concepts covered throughout the module. There are five questions. To successfully complete the quiz, you need a score of 80% or higher.

Question

01/06







Which organization is responsible for protecting the public by ensuring midwives meet required standards for safe, competent, and ethical care?

- A. Midwives Association of BC (MABC)
- B. BC College of Nurses & Midwives (BCCNM)
- C. Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

Question

02/06

Match each regulatory function of BCCNM with its corresponding responsibility to see how BCCNM ensures safe and ethical midwifery practices.

 Education program review	Setting and enforcing standards for ethical and competent midwifery practice.
 Standards support	Investigating and addressing concerns about unsafe or unethical midwifery care.
 Licensing/registration	Working with institutions to ensure midwifery education programs meet requirements to prepare midwives for entry to practice.
 Quality assurance	Defining the qualifications and skills needed to enter the midwifery profession.
 Setting standards	Requiring midwives to participate in continuing education and competency programs.
 Inquiry, discipline and monitoring	Providing guidance to midwives on how to apply standards.

Question

03/06

Why is midwifery licensing important? Select all that apply.

- A. It ensures midwives meet required standards for safe and competent care.
- B. It is a legal requirement to practice midwifery in B.C.
- C. It allows midwives to practice without following regulations.
- D. It protects the public by holding midwives accountable for safe and ethical practices.
- E. It guarantees higher salaries for midwives.

Question

04/06

What is the primary purpose of the Quality Assurance program implemented by BCCNM?

- A. To ensure the public receives safe, competent, and ethical care, by supporting midwives to engage in ongoing reflection and development.
- B. To represent the voice of midwifery and influence health policy.
- C. To provide legal support when starting new practice.

Question

05/06

What is one key responsibility of MABC?

- A. Address complaints about a midwife's practice
- B. Ensure legal registration of all midwives
- C. Advocate for midwifery's role in healthcare
- D. Enforce standards of ethical practice

Question

06/06

Which organization is responsible for the national midwifery registration exam and regulatory collaboration?

- A. Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)
- B. National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM)
- C. Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

Answer key

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Choose all statements that you believe are true.

- A. If you have graduated from a midwifery program with a bachelor's degree, it is legal to practice midwifery in B.C. without being licensed with BCCNM.
- B. The Quality Assurance (QA) Program administered by BCCNM is mandatory for all registered midwives.
- C. BCCNM applies an anti-racist lens to its operations and upholds the principles of UNDRIP and *DRIPA*.
- D. BCCNM provides liability insurance and negotiates compensation on behalf of midwives.
- E. BCCNM's main role is to discipline midwives who make mistakes.
- F. BCCNM investigates concerns about midwives to protect the public and uphold professional standards.
- G. Licensed midwives must renew their licences with BCCNM annually and meet quality assurance requirements.
- H. BCCNM sets standards for safe, competent, and ethical midwifery care.
- I. BCCNM provides business advice and resources to help midwives set up private practice.

Page 20

Which of the following statements is true about the licensing of midwives with BCCNM?

- A. Licensing grants the right to practice midwifery legally in B.C.
- B. Licensing includes free business coaching for private practices.
- C. Once licensed, no further education is required.
- D. Licensing is optional if a midwife completed their midwifery education in B.C.

Only licensed midwives can legally practice in B.C. Licensure also requires ongoing professional development.

Page 21

Which of the following is NOT true about the QA program?

- A. The QA program promotes professional growth and development through self-reflective activities and continuous learning.
- B. The QA program assesses midwives' competence through formal exams.
- C. The QA program performs assessments to ensure nurses and midwives are meeting standards.
- D. The QA program has the authority to recommend remedial activities to address areas for improvement identified through a QA assessment.

The QA Program has a dual purpose: it promotes growth and development through self-reflective activities and continuous learning, and also ensures nurses and midwives are meeting standards by conducting assessments. However, formal exams are not part of the program.

Page 22

Imagine, you're unsure how a specific BCCNM standard applies to a new clinical situation. What's the best step?

- A. Fully rely on what a colleague tells you to do.
- B. Skip it and document your own interpretation.
- C. Check the BCCNM website and, if needed, contact Standards Support.
- D. Follow the recommendation from midwifery Facebook group.

BCCNM provides learning resources and personalized support through Standards Support.

Page 23

Is it true?

BCCNM only addresses concerns if a client experiences harm.

- A. True
- B. False

BCCNM looks into any concern related to safety and quality of care, even if no harm occurred.

Page 24

Why does BCCNM review and recognize midwifery education programs in B.C.?

- A. To ensure programs meet BCCNM board-approved entry-level competencies.
- B. To publish the rating of midwifery schools and help students choose the best program.
- C. To help the midwifery programs obtain a licence from the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education.
- D. To allow the graduates from recognized programs to automatically become a licensed midwife.

BCCNM's role is to ensure education programs meet the required standards so that graduates are prepared for safe, competent, and ethical practice.

Page 32

Imagine you are starting a new practice and have a question about incorporation. Where would you most likely find the information you need? Select all that apply.

- A. BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM)
- B. BC Registries and Online Services
- C. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- D. Midwives Association of BC (MABC)
- E. BC Midwives Protection Program (BCMPP)

If you are interested in incorporating, the BC government website would be the best place to learn

about the process. MABC also provides many resources that would be helpful with setting up your practice, like guidance on billing and insurance. BCCNM does not provide any advice on the business side of midwifery practice, though it sets standards for certain aspects of it, for example, how medical records should be handled.

Page 35 – Quiz

01/06

Which organization is responsible for protecting the public by ensuring midwives meet required standards for safe, competent, and ethical care?

- A. Midwives Association of BC (MABC)
- B. BC College of Nurses & Midwives (BCCNM)
- C. Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

Question

02/06

Match each regulatory function of BCCNM with its corresponding responsibility to see how BCCNM ensures safe and ethical midwifery practices.

⋮ Education program review	Working with institutions to ensure midwifery education programs meet requirements to prepare midwives for entry to practice.
⋮ Standards support	Providing guidance to midwives on how to apply standards.
⋮ Licensing/registration	Defining the qualifications and skills needed to enter the midwifery profession.
⋮ Quality assurance	Requiring midwives to participate in continuing education and competency programs.
⋮ Setting standards	Setting and enforcing standards for ethical and competent midwifery practice.
⋮ Inquiry, discipline and monitoring	Investigating and addressing concerns about unsafe or unethical midwifery care.

Question

03/06

Why is midwifery licensing important? Select all that apply.

- A. It ensures midwives meet required standards for safe and competent care.
- B. It is a legal requirement to practice midwifery in B.C.
- C. It allows midwives to practice without following regulations.
- D. It protects the public by holding midwives accountable for safe and ethical practices.
- E. It guarantees higher salaries for midwives.

Question

04/06

What is the primary purpose of the Quality Assurance program implemented by BCCNM?

- A. To ensure the public receives safe, competent, and ethical care, by supporting midwives to engage in ongoing reflection and development.
- B. To represent the voice of midwifery and influence health policy.
- C. To provide legal support when starting new practice.

Question

05/06

What is one key responsibility of MABC?

- A. Address complaints about a midwife's practice
- B. Ensure legal registration of all midwives
- C. Advocate for midwifery's role in healthcare
- D. Enforce standards of ethical practice

Question

06/06

Which organization is responsible for the national midwifery registration exam and regulatory collaboration?

- A. Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)
- B. National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM)
- C. Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

Summary

Great work! We've explored the legislation and regulation that govern midwifery practice in B.C., and covered BCCNM's role in midwifery practice, including how it works to help ensure safe, competent, ethical and culturally safe care. We've also highlighted the distinction between the regulator and the association as well as the roles of other midwifery organizations. Here are some key takeaways:

1. *Health Professions Act* is the legislation that currently governs all health professionals in B.C.; in April 2026, it will be replaced with *Health Professions and Occupations Act*. The Midwives Regulation defines key terms and outlines profession-specific legal details.
2. BCCNM's mandate is to protect the public by ensuring that nurses and midwives provide safe, competent, ethical and culturally safe care.
3. BCCNM uses various strategies, like licensing, setting standards, administering a quality assurance program, and reviewing education programs to regulate midwifery profession.
4. BCCNM's standards outline the minimum expectations for midwives' professional behaviours and practice.
5. BCCNM offers resources such as standards consultations and learning resources to help you in your practice.

Now you have a better understanding of how midwives' practice is regulated in B.C. in what role BCCNM plays. Remember these points as you progress in your career and reach out to BCCNM whenever you need support.

Want to learn more? Check out one of the other resources for midwives.

To receive a certificate of completion, please fill in your name and the date on the certificate below and save or print the next page.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

BCCNM and Midwifery Practice

presented to

date completed



*Thank you for completing this module.
Please continue to apply this knowledge
to your professional practice.*

