

PRACTICE STANDARD

Midwives: Complementary and Alternative Therapies

Introduction

The British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) recognizes that clients have the right to choose complementary and alternative therapies while receiving midwifery care. As well, midwives may have knowledge of and may offer complementary and alternative therapies within their scope of practice.

Standards

1. Midwives who offer, refer to, discuss or have professional affiliation with providers of complementary or alternative therapies are expected to:
 - a. provide sufficient information regarding the evidence, efficacy, risks and benefits of the conventional and proposed complementary or alternative therapy so that the client may make an informed choice decision, and document this discussion appropriately in the medical record;
 - b. respect the autonomy of clients to choose or decline complementary or alternative therapies;
 - c. recognize the potential effects of their position as a trusted, regulated medical professional on their client's choice to accept or decline the proposed therapy; and
 - d. not withhold indicated medical examinations, investigations, therapies and/or physician consultation.
2. Midwives who practice complementary or alternative therapies must do so in an ethical manner that remains within their scope of care and level of competence.

Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication

Effective April 1, 2026, this practice standard, and any amendments to it, is made a bylaw under the authority of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act, B.C.*

Pub no.: 968