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PRACTICE STANDARD

Certified Midwives: Acupuncture

Introduction

The *Certified Midwives: Acupuncture* practice standard applies to midwives who meet BCCNM certification requirements for **acupuncture** use in labour and in the immediate postpartum period.[1]

Under the *Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation* and the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation*, midwives are authorized, if certified, to insert acupuncture needles under the skin for the purpose of relieving pain during labour or the postpartum period.

Midwives in British Columbia provide primary care to clients throughout the perinatal period under their own responsibility. Midwives must have ability to manage labour and birth, including the ability to assess the need for relief of pain and intervene using non-pharmacologic and pharmacological measures as required. They also have knowledge of complementary therapies which may be used during the intrapartum and postpartum period.

A practicing midwife licensee who holds certification may use the titles certified midwife, midwife (certified), or the abbreviation RM(C). If a certified midwife wishes to note their specific certification, they may append the term Acupuncture Certified.

Standards

1. Certified midwives:
    a. Follow relevant legislation and regulations,
    b. Follow BCCNM's ethics standards and practice standards including any applicable limits, and conditions on performing the activity,
    c. Follow organizational, policies, processes, and restrictions, and
    d. Practise within their individual competence.

Limits & conditions

1. Midwives who want to obtain certification in acupuncture must successfully complete the relevant certified practice course(s) recognized by BCCNM[2] or equivalent.[3]
2. A certified midwife may only insert acupuncture needles during labour or in the immediate post-partum period, 24 hours after birth, for the purpose of pain relief.

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[1] Immediate postpartum period refers to the first 24 hours following birth.
[2] BCCNM-recognized certified practice courses can be found here.
[3] For further information, contact Licensing at registermidwives@bccnm.ca.

Glossary

Acupuncture: an act of stimulation, by means of needles, of specific sites on the skin, mucous membranes or subcutaneous tissue of the human body and may be used to alleviate pain.

Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication
2.0	Nov. 18, 2026	Dec. 18, 2026	Removed names of recognized education programs; added "or equivalent" to L&C #1

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.*

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