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PRACTICE STANDARD

Certified Midwives: Vacuum-Assisted Emergency Delivery

NOT YET IN EFFECT

Introduction

The *Certified Midwives: Vacuum-Assisted Emergency Delivery* practice standard applies to midwives who meet BCCNM certification requirements for vacuum-assisted emergency delivery.

Under the *Regulated Health Practitioners Regulation* and the *Nurses and Midwives Regulation*, midwives are authorized, if certified, to insert an instrument, finger, or hand beyond the labia majora for the purpose of conducting the vacuum-assisted emergency delivery of a baby.

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 vacuum-assisted delivery (VAD) 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 Vacuum-Assisted Emergency Delivery must successfully complete the relevant certified practice course(s) recognized by BCCNM[1] or equivalent.[2]
2. Before attempting a vacuum-assisted emergency delivery, certified midwives must:
    - Demonstrate competence by initiating and managing a sufficient number of successful vacuum-assisted deliveries (a minimum of three) under physician or midwife[3] supervision prior to attempting vacuum assisted delivery independently;
    - Be in a hospital setting where the necessary community-specific resources are currently available to support a vacuum-assisted delivery; and

[1] BCCNM recognized certified practice courses can be found here.
[2] For further information, contact Licensing at registermidwives@bccnm.ca.
[3] Supervising midwives must hold current BCCNM certification in vacuum-assisted emergency delivery and appropriate hospital privileges.

- Communicate with the health care team in order to create an appropriate plan of care for the client and newborn, including an interprofessional alternate plan in the event that the vacuum-assisted delivery is not successful.

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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