

## ETHICS STANDARD

# Midwives: Informed Choice

## Introduction

An informed choice discussion is a collaborative, non-authoritarian, culturally sensitive and on-going exchange of information between a midwife and client. This discussion supports understanding and decision making in clinical care.

Midwives have a duty to recommend care they determine is in the best interest of their client; the client may accept or decline their recommendation. The informed choice process ultimately results in either informed consent or informed refusal.

## Standards

1. Midwives provide each client with information regarding relevant treatments, procedures, tests and medications throughout their care. Information should include:
  - a. what is being proposed/offered and its risks/benefits;
  - b. any alternatives to what is being proposed/offered and their risks/benefits;
  - c. what would happen if no treatment/procedure/test/medication is chosen;
  - d. relevant research evidence including any deficiency of clear evidence;
  - e. relevant community standards of care and practices;
  - f. their recommendation for the client, supported by evidence, BCCNM standards and community standards.
2. Midwives make reasonable efforts to ensure that the client has adequate opportunity and time to engage in the informed choice process.
3. If a midwife is concerned that the client may be incapacitated and cannot make informed choices, they consult an appropriate health professional.
4. Midwives document informed choice discussions in the medical record and communicate the client's choices with the health care team.

## 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 ethics 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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