

FOR BCCNM MIDWIVES

# Framework for midwife certification for vacuum-assisted emergency delivery

Midwives in British Columbia manage normal, spontaneous labour and vaginal delivery under their own responsibility. Midwives who hold current BCCNM specialized practice certification and appropriate hospital privileges may also perform a vacuum-assisted emergency delivery in accordance with the BCCNM standards of practice and the limits and conditions set out in this framework.

## Certification

Specialized practice certification must be granted by BCCNM prior to midwives' independent practice in this competency area. To obtain certification, a midwife must:

1. Successfully complete the BCCNM-approved [insert name of vacuum-assisted delivery education program once approved] or an equivalent education program offered in another Canadian jurisdiction,
2. Demonstrate competence by initiating and managing a sufficient number of successful vacuum-assisted deliveries (a minimum of three) under physician or midwife<sup>1</sup> supervision, and
3. Submit proof to BCCNM of successful completion of the education program and a letter confirming their demonstration of competence.

A midwife who has acquired education and competence in this area of specialized practice in a jurisdiction outside of British Columbia may also request an assessment of equivalency in order to be granted certification on that basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Supervising midwives must hold current BCCNM certification in vacuum-assisted emergency delivery and appropriate hospital privileges.

## Limits and conditions

Before attempting a vacuum-assisted emergency delivery, midwives must:

- Be in a hospital setting where the necessary community-specific resources are currently available to support a vacuum-assisted delivery; and
- 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.

## Course/program requirements

Education courses/programs for vacuum-assisted delivery will include relevant theory, simulation workshop(s), knowledge examination(s), skill evaluation(s), and a clinical practicum under supervision.

Education courses/programs leading to BCCNM specialized practice certification in vacuum-assisted delivery must include competencies that teach and assess:

- **Knowledge** of vacuum-assisted delivery, including:
  - Indications, contraindications, and prerequisites;
  - Required physical examinations;
  - Advantages, disadvantages, risks and benefits; and
  - Post-procedure care required for the client and newborn.
- **Skills** in vacuum-assisted delivery, including:
  - Conducting physical examinations;
  - Determining the situation presents a reasonable and appropriate indication for offering a vacuum-assisted delivery;
  - Obtaining informed consent from the client;
  - Ensuring the necessary resources are available to support vacuum-assisted delivery, including indicated local support and an alternate plan in the event that the vacuum-assisted delivery is not successful;
  - Applying and using a vacuum device with appropriate force to facilitate a vaginal birth;
  - Determining when to end a vacuum-assisted delivery attempt;
  - Documenting the relevant history, physical examination findings, indication(s), informed consent, procedure, and outcomes; and
  - Providing appropriate post-procedure care for the client and newborn.

## Maintaining certification

Midwives are accountable and responsible for maintaining evidence-based knowledge, skills, and competencies to support the provision of safe, ethical, and competent care. Midwives are expected to keep up to date with the latest research, guidelines, and techniques related to vacuum-assisted delivery. This can include self-directed learning as well as formal continuing professional development activities. Midwives are not required to submit proof of their activities unless directed by BCCNM.

The following requirements apply to midwives with BCCNM Specialized Practice Certification in Vacuum-Assisted Emergency Delivery:

1. Midwives must demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development and complete at least one learning activity related to their area of specialized practice each year. Midwives are expected to maintain records of their activities for at least three years.
2. Midwives must have performed vacuum-assisted delivery in the 36-month period preceding registration renewal.
3. Midwives who have not met requirements #1 and #2 will need to recertify. Midwives seeking recertification are assessed on a case-by-case basis with consideration of recent clinical experience, education, and practice context.

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