

PRACTICE STANDARD FOR MIDWIVES

# Screening and Diagnostic Tests & Imaging: Standards, Limits, and Conditions

These standards, limits, and conditions set the requirements midwives must meet when ordering, performing, interpreting, and/or managing the results/reports of screening and diagnostic tests & imaging.

Under the [Midwives Regulation](#), midwives may order and interpret the results/reports of screening and diagnostic tests or imaging (ultrasound) to screen for and diagnose conditions that support a midwifery diagnosis.<sup>1</sup> Midwives may also perform certain screening and diagnostic tests & imaging. These activities include:

- perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis or below the surface of a mucous membrane for taking a swab or collecting a specimen,
- perform venipuncture to collect a blood sample from a client,
- put an instrument or a hand or finger beyond the labia majora, for the purposes of conducting internal examinations, and/or
- apply ultrasound for the purpose of fetal heart monitoring.

Midwives may not apply ultrasound for purposes other than fetal heart monitoring.

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<sup>1</sup> [Midwives Regulation](#): "midwifery diagnosis" means a clinical judgment of a patient's mental or physical condition, or that of the patient's newborn, to determine whether:

(a) the condition can be ameliorated or resolved by services that the registrant is authorized to provide, or  
(b) consultation with, or transfer of responsibility for care to, another health professional is necessary or appropriate.

## Standards

1. Midwives order, perform, interpret, and/or manage screening and diagnostic tests & imaging (ultrasound) according to:
  - a. relevant legislation and regulations,
  - b. BCCNM standards, limits, and conditions,
  - c. organizational/practice setting/community policies and processes,
  - d. current evidence, relevant guidelines, and other resources, and
  - e. their individual competence.
2. When midwives order, perform, interpret, and/or manage screening and diagnostic tests & imaging (ultrasound), they:
  - a. consider the client's physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, social, and cultural needs relevant to test(s) and/or imaging,
  - b. review the client's relevant health history, recent test(s) and/or imaging result(s)/report(s), and other relevant factors,
  - c. perform and document appropriate clinical assessments and document clinical indication(s) for test(s)/imaging (ultrasound),
  - d. initiate discussion, consultation, referrals, and/or transfer care to other health professionals when:
    - i. client care would benefit from the expertise of other health professionals,
    - ii. required by organizational/ practice setting/community policies or processes, and/or
    - iii. client care needs exceed the scope of practice and/or individual competence of the midwife.
  - e. provide the client information about the test(s) and/or imaging (ultrasound) and document the informed choice discussion and the client's choice,
  - f. complete requisitions and labels fully and accurately and specify the other health professional(s) that should receive the results/reports, as applicable,
  - g. review and follow up on test(s) or imaging (ultrasound) results/reports following organizational/practice setting/community processes:
    - i. establish processes within their practice setting(s) to track and follow-up on results/reports if the practice setting does not have one.

- h. communicate and collaborate with the client and health care team in a timely manner about the test(s), and/or imaging (ultrasound) results/reports, proposed follow-up care, and/or treatment plan, as applicable, and
  - i. document:
    - i. client follow-up (and follow-up attempts),
    - ii. the test(s) or imaging (ultrasound) results/reports, follow-up care, and/or treatment plan, as applicable, and
    - iii. discussions, consultations, referrals, and/or transfers of care to other health professionals, as applicable.
3. Midwives take part in required and relevant reporting programs such as those related to communicable diseases listed in the [Public Health Act](#).<sup>2</sup>

## Limits and Conditions

1. Midwives do not order any other type of imaging other than ultrasound.
2. To screen for and diagnose conditions that support a midwifery diagnosis,<sup>3</sup> midwives may order and interpret the results/reports of screening, diagnostic tests or ultrasounds.
3. To support other health professionals to make a diagnosis of disease or disorder in a midwifery client, midwives may order screening, diagnostic tests or ultrasounds.
4. Midwives do not order screening, diagnostic tests or ultrasounds for themselves or anyone who is not a midwifery client.<sup>4</sup>

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900 – 200 Granville St  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1S4  
Canada

[www.bccnm.ca](http://www.bccnm.ca)

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<sup>2</sup> *Public Health Act* [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/167\\_2018#Schedule](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/167_2018#Schedule)

<sup>3</sup> *Midwives Regulation*: "midwifery diagnosis" means a clinical judgment of a patient's mental or physical condition, or that of the patient's newborn, to determine whether:

(a) the condition can be ameliorated or resolved by services that the registrant is authorized to provide, or  
(b) consultation with, or transfer of responsibility for care to, another health professional is necessary or appropriate.

<sup>4</sup> "Midwifery client" means a person who is pregnant, is in labour, or is delivering a child, or is in the postpartum period; and newborns and infants.