

Policy Name	Second Birth Attendant Policy: Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties	Number	P 13
Date Approved by Council	June 16, 2016	Effective Date:	Sept 14, 2016
<p>Note: This policy (P13) replaces the MHDC Policy on Non-Midwife Second Attendants and CMA P06 Restricted Midwife Second Attendant Policy</p> <p><u>Purpose of Policy</u></p> <p>Provide direction to Registered Midwives for the requirement of a second attendant at all births in all birth settings and direction in regard to Qualifications, Responsibilities and Duties of the second attendant.</p> <p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p>Public safety is the main consideration when planning for a birth. The Alberta model of midwifery includes planning for a second registered midwife to be present for the birth and the immediate postpartum period at all births regardless of location and setting. This policy details the requirements and provides direction for midwife and non-midwife second birth attendants.</p> <p><u>Registered Midwife Second Birth Attendants</u></p> <p>When a Restricted midwife 2nd attendant is providing care to a woman or newborn, a Registered midwife, without restrictions, will be present and primarily responsible.</p> <p>The Registrar and /or the Registration Committee may grant Second Attendant privileges to Registered Midwives in a Restricted Category of Registration in certain circumstances. There are two categories of Registered Restricted Midwives who are privileged to attend births as a Midwife Second Birth Attendant.</p> <p>1) Registered Second Birth Attendant Midwife (Restricted): A midwife who is a Fully Registered midwife with no restrictions in Canada and has attended 200 births as primary, may apply for and be granted restricted registration to serve ONLY as a Second Birth Attendant This category may be granted for a period of one year and renewable if requirements set out below have been maintained.</p> <p>This category of Registered Restricted Midwife may ONLY serve as second attendant to a Non-restricted Registrant.</p>			

1.1) Process:

A fully registered Midwife may request, in writing, to have restrictions placed on her registration which specify she will serve ONLY as a second attendant. The registrar may grant this restriction if continuing competency certificates are maintained.

Midwives in this category of restriction are required to attend a minimum of 10 births per year as midwife second birth attendant but are not required to meet practice numbers for Primary Birth and Continuity of Care to maintain this restricted registration.

2) Registered Midwife with Restrictions: A currently Restricted Midwife who is not privileged to act as second birth attendant due to her restrictions, may apply for and be granted approval to serve as Second Birth Attendant while working toward unrestricted Registration.

- a) After a period of close supervision, a review of learning plans and supervision reports, the College may grant a restricted midwife permission to practice as a second birth attendant. The College must be satisfied the restricted midwife is well prepared to deliver care safely including in an emergency situation.
- b) The College recognises that a restricted midwife, through a self-directed programme of planned learning, could provide evidence of readiness to act in the role of second attendant.
- c) A restricted midwife, who has already held a role as a second attendant in a different jurisdiction, must provide evidence supporting the understanding of the standards in Alberta before the previous experience is considered acceptable evidence.
- d) A restricted midwife must have an unrestricted registrant with them at all births. New Registrants, Restricted midwives and midwifery students cannot conduct a birth together without an unrestricted registrant present.
- e) **At least one unrestricted registrant must be present at every birth.**

2-1) Process:

The Registrar will review the evidence submitted. If the Registrar is not satisfied that the restricted midwife has met the restriction requirements she will refer the matter to the Registration Committee for a decision. The restricted midwife will be notified of the decision of the College and a copy will remain on the midwife's record.

Responsibilities and Duties of Restricted Midwife Second Birth Attendants

A Registered Restricted Midwife approved as second birth attendant will practice to the full scope of midwifery care in the role of second birth attendant.

Non-Midwife Second Birth Attendant:

When a registered midwife is not available to attend as second attendant, a non-midwife health professional registered with their own regulatory body in Alberta and with current experience in intrapartum and immediate postpartum care may be employed to assist and support the principal registered midwife.

The Registered Midwives are responsible to ensure non-midwife second birth attendants, in their employ, meet the requirements stated within this policy.

The potential of a non-registered midwife second birth attendant is to be fully discussed with the clients and included in the written informed choice /client contract when the Registered Midwife employs another health care professional.

Responsibilities of Non-midwife Second Birth Attendants

The second birth attendant provides, but is not limited to, the following duties. Duties will be carried out under the direction of the principal midwife. Non-midwife second attendants will not be requested to carry out duties beyond their scope of practice set by the professional regulatory body with which they are registered.

General

- Provide assistance to the midwife
- Provide support to the woman in labour and immediate postpartum

First and Second Stage of Labour

- Check layout of supplies to ensure accessibility of drugs, instruments and emergency equipment
- Monitor and chart fetal heart rate in second stage of labour
- Check maternal blood pressure and pulse
- Document in the health care record

Birth

- Ensure warmth and safety of the newborn
- Check, report and record the condition of the newborn
- Assess APGAR scores

Postpartum

- Check maternal blood pressure, pulse, fundus and lochia
- Assist with showering, bathing, toileting, pericare

Emergency situations

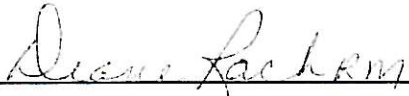
- Phone emergency medical services as directed
- Perform, or assist, with neonatal resuscitation
- Set up and administer intravenous/drug therapy under the direction of the Midwife
- Check maternal blood pressure and pulse
- Perform, or assist with, CPR
- Assist in preparation for transport
- Document time and actions taken in management of emergencies

Qualification for all Second Birth Attendants


Registered midwives may hire health care professionals, registered with a health professional regulatory body in Alberta, as 2nd attendants who meet the following qualifications:

- Current liability insurance which covers their responsibilities and duties in the role of 2nd attendant,
- Current active registration with their professional regulating body in the province of Alberta to whom the health professional is responsible in their practice as a 2nd birth attendant,
- Current certification in neonatal resuscitation, - yearly re-certification
- Current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for health care workers,
- Maternal/newborn care experience in their professional health care role,
- Knowledge and understanding of the model and practice of midwifery as outlined in the College of Midwives of Alberta Model of Care, Standards of Competency and Standards of Practice.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated ability to:
 - Perform vital signs assessment for adults and newborns,
 - Perform postpartum assessment,
 - Perform newborn assessment,
 - Initiate and manage IV
 - Administer IM medications to adults and neonates
 - Use universal precautions and appropriate care of body fluids and placenta,
 - Use clean and sterile procedure,
 - Set up and use equipment and instruments used for birth, postpartum, normal newborn care and emergency care,
 - Use appropriate documentation and record keeping,
 - Assist the registered midwife in management of obstetrical and newborn complications, including accessing and communicating appropriate information to emergency medical services and hospital personnel.
- Midwives are to ensure non-midwife 2nd attendants, in their hire, have knowledge of and demonstrate competence in fetal health surveillance and obstetrical emergencies.

Approved by Council: June 16, 2016



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College of Midwives of Alberta



Date