

Code of Ethics

For Registered Midwives

**Prince Edward Island College of
Nursing and Midwifery**

June 2022

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Introduction

The Code of Ethics for Registered Midwives (RMs) is a statement of the ethical values of RMs in Prince Edward Island. This Code is designed to inform RMs and their clients about the ethical values of midwifery practice. RMs are bound to their code of ethics as part of a regulatory process that serves and protects the public, and maintains the professional reputation of the discipline of midwifery.

Providing Safe, Competent, and Ethical Care

- Provides safe care in accordance with the Regulated Health Professions Act, Registered Midwives Regulations, Standards of Practice and Competencies within the scope of practice of midwives. If unable to provide safe care, the midwife shall make a timely transfer of care to an alternate care provider.
- Promotes the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of clients.
- Promotes and facilitates the physiological process of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.
- Informs and educates clients and the public as to the scope, role, function, and standards of midwifery practice, and with respect to any limitations of midwifery.
- Ensures that no act or omission on their part places a client at risk.
- Acknowledges to clients and health care practitioners any conscientious objection or conflict of interest, which may affect professional practice or the client's right to informed choice.
- Does not abandon a client in labour.
- Does not practice midwifery while their ability to do so is impaired by any means.

Accountability

- Provides midwifery care to each client until time of discharge, care is no longer wanted, or care has been terminated with appropriate notice.
- Uses up-to-date, evidence-based professional knowledge and continuous professional development to maintain competence.
- Assists learners, including students and colleagues, to develop and maintain professional competence.
- Supports and sustains other midwives in their professional roles and actively nurtures their own and others' sense of self-worth.
- Is responsive in their communication and compliance with the requirements of their regulatory authority.

- Values their own personal health and wellness and takes steps to optimize meaningful co-existence of their professional and personal life.
- Complies with the requirements of the Regulated Health Professions Act and its associated Regulations.

Honesty and Integrity

- Discloses to the client any harm sustained to them while under their care.
- Recognizes the inherent power imbalance that exists within the midwife-client relationship and takes care to not take advantage of this imbalance for any reason.
- Does not abuse the privileged midwife-client relationship.
- Interacts respectfully and honestly with the people with whom they work and practice.
- Does not use professional qualifications in the promotion of commercial products.
- Does not accept any gifts, favour or hospitality which might be reasonably seen to create a conflict of interest.
- Does not take advantage of publicly funded programs for personal financial gain.

Maintaining Confidentiality

- Takes every precaution to protect the privacy and confidentiality of client's personal health information, unless release of information is required by law.
- Collects, uses, and discloses only as much health information as necessary; shares information only to benefit the client and only with those within the client's circle of care.

Dignity and Justice

- Advocates for the client.
- Uses their knowledge, judgment, and expertise to provide a high standard of midwifery care which respects individuals' needs, values and dignity.
- Respects the autonomy and rights of each client to make decisions about their care that the client determines is in their best interest.
- Provides midwifery care without discriminating based on race, colour,

ancestry, place of origin, political beliefs, religion, family status, age, sexual orientation, and physical or mental disability.

- Commits to collaborative and respectful relationships with Indigenous clients through efforts to understand and implement the recommendations relevant to health care made in the report *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*.

References

British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, (2021). *Code of ethics for BCCNM Midwives*. Accessed on March 3, 2022 from [RM Code of Ethics.pdf \(bccnm.ca\)](#).

College of Midwives of Alberta, (2019). *College of Midwives of Alberta Code of Ethics*. Accessed on March 3, 2022 from [Code of Ethics HPA 2019.pdf \(albertamidwives.org\)](#).

Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador, (2018). *Code of Ethics*. Accessed on March 3, 2022 from [65CMNL-Code-of-Ethics-Final-July-182018.pdf](#).