

## **PHILOSOPHY OF MIDWIFERY CARE**

Fundamental to midwifery care is respect for the normal, healthy process of pregnancy and childbirth. Midwifery care promotes, protects and facilitates normal physiologic birth and supports a positive birth experience.

Midwives regard pregnancy and childbirth as transformative life events and value the diverse personal and cultural meanings that these events carry for clients, families and communities.

The primary focus of midwifery care is on promoting the health and wellbeing of pregnant clients and their babies. Midwives give preventative, timely attention to potential problems and use medical technologies judiciously and appropriately.

Midwives centre their care on the strengths and needs of the individual client and family. Midwifery care combines an understanding of the emotional and psychosocial as well as physical and clinical aspects of pregnancy, childbirth, infant care and parenting.

Midwives provide continuous, personalized care throughout pregnancy, birth and the postpartum and build relationships of mutual trust and understanding with clients. Midwives respect clients' wishes to be cared for and attended in labour by known care providers.

Midwives share information and advice in a manner that encourages and supports parents' sense of competence and self-confidence. Midwifery visits provide opportunities for open, interactive discussion and education.

Midwives work in partnership with clients so that clients can make informed choices about their health and that of their babies. Clients are regarded as the primary decision-makers in their own care.

Midwives respect clients' rights to choose where to give and whom they wish to be present. Midwives are prepared to provide intrapartum care in hospital and out-of-hospital settings, in accordance with professional standards and the client's choice.

Midwifery care integrates scientific, research-based knowledge with skill and wisdom derived from clinical experience. Midwives also respect the knowledge clients have about their own bodies and lives.

Midwives regard the interests of the pregnant client and fetus as compatible and believe that supporting and caring for the client is essential to good outcomes.

Midwives believe that all clients, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances, have a right to the care and support they need to give birth with safety and dignity.

**Adopted by the MRCNS on July 2, 2009**  
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