

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM POLICY

The Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia has a legislated mandate to establish and administer a Quality Assurance Program (QAP) to promote, maintain and enhance the quality of midwifery practice across the province. As set out in Section 28 (2) of the *Regulations Respecting Midwifery*, the quality assurance program administered by the Council may consist of, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (a) the assessment of members' competence to practice;
- (b) the monitoring of members' participation in, and compliance with, the quality assurance program;
- (c) continuing education and professional development;
- (d) peer case review;
- (e) quality of care evaluation;
- (f) self-assessment;
- (g) practice audits.

The MRCNS Quality Assurance Program requires midwives with an active-practising (clinical) or provisional (clinical) licence to participate in ongoing quality assurance activities that support lifelong learning, reflective practice and quality improvement. Specific QAP components, guidelines and requirements are set out in the following policies:

- **Client Evaluation of Midwifery Care**
- **Continuing Education and Professional Development**
- **Peer Case Review**
- **Self Assessment and Reflective Practice**

In addition to active-practice requirements and requirements for continuing competency in emergency skills, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and neonatal resuscitation, midwives in clinical practice must fulfil all requirements of the MRCNS Quality Assurance Program for annual licence renewal.

Completed reports on quality assurance activities during the previous year must be submitted with annual licence renewal applications by March 1st of each year.¹ Late submission of QAP reports will be subject to penalties, as follows:

- Late submissions before April 1st = \$50
- Late submissions April 1st to May 1st = \$150

Failure to submit all required QAP reports by May 1st will result in suspension of licence.

MRCNS QAP reporting forms will be provided to each midwife along with the application for annual licence renewal. Midwives will also be able to access and download reporting forms from the MRCNS website.

¹ The QAP reporting year is from March 1st of the previous year to the end of February in the current year.