

MIDWIFERY REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA (MRCNS)

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**POLICY ON PRESCRIBING, ORDERING AND ADMINISTERING DRUGS**

Registered midwives with an active-practicing (clinical) or provisional (clinical) license in Nova Scotia may independently prescribe, order, or administer drugs or substances in accordance with the schedule of permitted drugs in categories set out in the *Regulations*.

Midwives are only authorized to act within their Scope of Practice as defined in the *Midwifery Act* and *Regulations Respecting Midwifery*. Midwives must adhere to the policies and standards of the Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia including the Council's Policy on *Indications for Discussion, Consultation and Transfer of Care*. When acting within their scope of practice, midwives can independently prescribe, order, and administer drugs for their clients in the community, hospital, or other sites of midwifery practice.

**1.1 Drugs which may be independently prescribed, ordered and administered by a midwife.**

The following table lists the purposes of use for the categories of drugs that may be prescribed or administered by midwives.

Category	Indication
Analgesics and sedatives <sup>1</sup>	Pregnancy, labour, and postpartum pain management
Anesthetics (local)	Episiotomy, perineal lacerations, and repair, IV insertion, catheterization
Antibiotics	Lower urinary tract infection, treatment of vaginal/cervical infections, Group B streptococcus prophylaxis, mastitis, newborn eye prophylaxis
Antiemetics	Nausea and vomiting
Antifungals	Candidiasis- nipples, oral thrush, vaginal
Antihemorrhagics	Postpartum hemorrhage
Antihistamines	Anaphylactic reactions, pruritic urticarial papules, and plaques of pregnancy (PUPPP)
Antireflux	Gastroesophageal reflux
Antivirals	Herpes simplex virus, influenza

<sup>1</sup> *The New Classes of Practitioners Regulations (NCPR)* under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) enables midwives to provide safe and timely care to clients requiring treatment using controlled drugs. See MRCNS Policy on *Prescribing, Ordering and Administering Controlled Drugs and Substances*.

Contraceptive devices which contain medication	Contraception
Crystalloid or colloid intravenous solutions	Dehydration, hypovolemia
Immune globulins	Vaccine prophylaxis, Rh immune globulin (e.g. WhinRo)
Lactation aids (domperidone)	Breast milk production
Laxatives	Constipation
Oxytocics	Induction/augmentation of labour <sup>2</sup> , postpartum hemorrhage, active management of third stage of labour
Phytonadione (Vitamin K1- generic name)	Vitamin prophylaxis
Prostaglandins	Induction of labour <sup>3</sup> , postpartum hemorrhage
Topicals	Hemorrhoids, sore nipples
Vaccines	Immunizations
Vitamins	Nutritional supplementation and therapy

### 1.2 Drugs which may be administered under emergency conditions in consultation with a medical practitioner.

The use of these drugs is for emergency purposes, and it should be immediately followed by a physician consultation and if out-of-hospital, emergency transport to hospital.

Category	Indication
Epinephrine hydrochloride	anaphylactic shock, neonatal resuscitation
Sodium bicarbonate (newborn)	Neonatal resuscitation
Naloxone	Narcotic-induced respiratory depression (neonate)
Nitroglycerin	Uterine hyperstimulation

<sup>2</sup> Midwives can prescribe, order and administer Oxytocin for the purpose of induction or augmentation of labour in a hospital setting, following hospital policies and procedures.

<sup>3</sup> Midwives can prescribe, order and administer Prostaglandin for the purpose of induction of labour in a hospital setting, following hospital policies and procedures.

### **1.3 Prescribing, administering, and ordering other drugs in the profession of midwifery:**

- a) A midwife registered in active clinical practice by the MRCNS may prescribe, administer, or order any drug or substance that may lawfully be purchased or acquired without a prescription.
- b) A midwife registered in active clinical practice by the MRC NS may administer, on order of a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, any drug or substance.
- c) A midwife registered in active clinical practice by the MRC NS may use in the practice of midwifery, on order of a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, any drug.

### **1.4 Prescribing of devices and complementary treatments**

A midwife registered in active clinical practice by the MRCNS may prescribe or order devices and complementary treatments commonly used in conditions associated with pregnancy and the postpartum period.

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