

# The Association of Texas Midwives Standards for Midwifery Practice

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## 1. DEFINITION

The midwife practices in accord with the Midwives Alliance of North America's Standards and Qualifications for the Art and Practice of Midwifery (except where it conflicts with Texas law), the ATM Statement of Values and Ethics, and demonstrates the clinical skills and judgments described in the MANA Core Competencies for Midwifery Practice.

## 2. STANDARDS

A. **Skills** - Necessary skills of a practicing midwife include the ability to: provide continuity of care to the woman and her newborn during the maternity cycle; identify, assess and provide care during normal antepartal, intrapartal, postpartal, neonatal and newborn periods; identify and assess deviations from normal; maintain proficiency in life-saving measures by regular review and practice; manage emergency situations appropriately: use judgment, skill and intuition in competent the assessment and response.

B. **Appropriate equipment and treatment** - Midwives carry and maintain equipment to assess and provide care for the mother, the fetus, and the newborn; to maintain a clean and/or aseptic technique; and to treat conditions including, but not limited to, hemorrhage, lacerations, and cardio-respiratory distress. This may include the use of non-pharmaceutical agents, pharmaceutical agents by physician prescription or standing orders and equipment for suturing and resuscitation.

C. **Records** - Midwives keep accurate records of care provided for each woman and newborn in her/his practice. Records reflect current standards in midwifery charting and are held confidential (except as legally required) and maintained as deemed necessary by law. Records shall be provided to the woman on request. The midwife maintains confidentiality in all verbal and written communications regarding client care.

E. **Data Collection** – It is highly recommended that midwives collect data for their practice on a regular basis. Data collection will be used to further midwifery in Texas.

**F. Medical Consultation, Collaboration, Referral, and Transfer** - Midwives recognize there are certain conditions for which medical care is recommended. . The midwife shall make a reasonable attempt to assure that her/his clients have access to consultation, collaboration, referral, and transfer to a medical care system when indicated.

**G. Screening** - Midwifery practice upholds the right to self-determination of consumers within the boundaries of safe care. Midwives will use risk factor assessments for initial and continuing eligibility for midwifery services. Women will be informed of their risk status. It is the right and responsibility of the midwife to refuse or discontinue her services, and to make appropriate referrals when indicated or when client care falls outside and a midwife's protocols or scope of practice.

**H. Informed Choice** - . Each midwife will disclose in oral and written form to prospective client the midwife's scope of practice. This shall be accomplished through an Informed Choice and Disclosure Statement. The informed choice shall include statistics of the midwives' experience, date and expiration of license date and expiration of midwives' CPR and NNR certifications, and medical back-up arrangements. The disclosure statement shall include legal requirements of the midwife, prohibited acts as stated in the Midwifery Act and the name, address and telephone number of the Department of State Health Services Midwifery Program.

**I. Continuing Education** - Midwives shall update their knowledge and skills on a regular basis.

**J. Peer Review** - Midwifery practice includes an on-going process of .case review with peers.

**K. Practice Protocols** - . Each midwife shall develop protocols that are in agreement with the ATM Standards for Midwifery Practice, the ATM Statement of Ethics and the MANA Core Competencies for Midwifery Practice, in keeping with her level of expertise and remain within the Texas Law. Protocols shall be written, updated and maintained by the midwife.

**L. Ethics** - Midwives will maintain high ethical standards in their work, as evidenced by adherence to ATM's CODE FOR ETHICAL MIDWIFERY PRACTICE.

- (1) International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and Joint Study Group on Midwifery Care, rec. 1972.
- (2) Based on Midwives' Alliance of North America (MANA) "Standards/Qualifications for the Art and Practice of Midwifery," March 1985.