

Policy Name	Client Requests for Care Outside Midwifery Standards of Practice Policy	Number	P10
Date Approved by Council	October 25, 2013	Revised by Council	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a client requests care that is outside the <i>Midwifery Standards of Practice</i> or is contrary to the midwife’s judgement of safe care, the midwife must advise the client of the standard or her judgement and the rationale for the standard or her particular judgement in this case. 2. Should the client continue to request care outside the <i>Midwifery Standards of Practice</i> or the midwife’s judgment of safe care, the midwife must seek a second opinion from at least one of the following: another midwife, a physician, or a peer review group and share the opinion with the client. 3. If the midwife’s assessment of the client’s request remains unchanged after the midwife considers the second opinion, the midwife must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) communicate to the client that she is unable to continue to provide care as a primary health care provider (b) assist the client in finding another appropriate primary health care provider; (c) cease providing care as a primary health care provider, except emergency care in accordance with section 6 below; and (d) clearly document in the client’s record details of the advice given to the client, recommendations arising from the second opinion, the proposed plan for transfer of primary care and the client’s response. 4. The midwife may continue to provide supportive care if the midwife considers it appropriate to do so in the circumstances. If the midwife is willing to continue to provide supportive care, she must advise the client of that willingness and the limits on the care. 			

5. Should the client continue to request care outside the *Midwifery Standards of Practice* or the midwife's judgment of safe care, the midwife must:
 - a. inform the client by letter that the midwife is terminating care and the rationale for the termination and set out the details of the plan for transfer of primary care;
 - b. deliver the letter to the client by courier, by certified or registered mail or by another form of assured delivery; and
 - c. maintain a copy of the letter and the proof of delivery in the client's health record.

6. In the course of labour or in a crisis situation when a client requests care that is outside the *Midwifery Standards of Practice* or the midwife's judgment of safe care, a midwife must:
 - a. initiate consultation and transfer of primary care in accordance with the *Midwifery Standards of Practice*;
 - b. in an out-of-hospital situation, arrange for transport of the client to a hospital capable of dealing with the clients condition, in accordance with the *Midwifery Standards of Practice*;

Should the client refuse to accept or facilitate transfer of primary care or transport to hospital a midwife, although not required to, may remain in attendance and be available to provide emergency care.

7. Nothing in this Policy requires a midwife to perform any procedure or do anything that the midwife is not qualified to do or that is contrary to the ethical practice of midwifery.

Approved by Council: _____ October 25, 2013 _____