

Peer Case Review Policy

Date Approved: Council June 15, 2023

Date Last Reviewed: July 17, 2023

Next Review: July 2024



Purpose

Peer case review is one component of the **Continuing Competence** Program (CCP) in accordance with **The Standard of Practice: Continuing Competence (2023)**. **Peer case review** is intended to help registrants identify opportunities for professional development and **quality improvement through** a review of clinical care and management decisions, obtaining peer feedback, and engaging in reflection.

Definitions

Client: a person or persons who contracts with the midwife or group of midwives for the professional service of midwifery care. **Client** also includes the newborn infant of the person who enters into the contract for midwifery services.

Confidentiality: the duty to keep all client information private as required by the *Alberta Health Information Act (2000)*, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (2000)* and the *Personal Information Protection Act (2019)*.

Continuing Competence: the ongoing ability to apply the knowledge, skills, judgment and personal attributes to practice safely and ethically in a designated role or setting. This is demonstrated periodically through portfolios, exams and other measures that help the CMA to determine if a registrant has remained competent.

Cultural Safety: a process based on respectful engagement, free from racism and discrimination, that recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in the health care system.

Evidence-informed: actions or information based on successful strategies shown to improve **client** outcomes and derived from a combination of sources, including, but not limited to **client** perspectives, research, national guidelines, consensus statements, expert opinion, and **quality improvement** data.

Interprofessional Case Review: a process of reviewing a case, where more than one health profession is represented amongst the attendees.

Peer Case Review: an adult learning approach of reflecting on a clinical experience and receiving feedback from midwifery colleagues.

Quality Improvement: A systematic, formal approach to the analysis of practice performance and efforts to improve performance.

Scope and Policy Key Points

Requirements:

1. **Peer case reviews** are for all active registrants with the CMA (general, provisional) and midwifery students. All participants are expected to embody the role of a registered midwife or midwifery student and to be present in no other capacity (eg. not as AHS staff or administrative staff).
2. Every midwifery practice needs to host at least one review per year either in person or virtually.
3. **Peer case reviews** are focused on clinical care, are educational and conducted in a supportive environment, keeping **cultural safety** and **confidentiality** in mind.
4. Registrants participate in and report at least four (4) **peer case review** sessions every registration year (November 1 to October 31).
 - a. Exception: midwives may count up to two **interprofessional case reviews** in lieu of two midwifery **peer case reviews**. The individual registrant will maintain a copy of their **interprofessional case review** attendance for 5 years for audit purposes.
 - b. For inactive midwives: For every three consecutive months that the registrant is inactive, the required number of **peer case reviews** is reduced by one. For example, if the registrant is inactive for six consecutive months the required number of **peer case reviews** would be two.
 - c. For the August 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 (first year): only one (1) **peer case review** will be required.
5. Each **peer case review** session will include a minimum of three participating registrants from at least two separate midwifery practice groups (except at **interprofessional case reviews**, where there may only be one midwife). Students are welcome to attend and/or present cases, but are not included in these numbers.
6. Record of the session: The midwifery practice host of the **peer case review** will fill out a **peer case review** log. The information that will be included in a log is: session date, registrant names, the midwifery practice groups participating in each session, the number of cases reviewed, and verbal **confidentiality** agreement by all participants (see Appendix A- Peer Case Review Log for example). The host practice will provide a copy of the completed log to each participating midwifery practice group.
7. Each host practice will store a copy of the **peer case review** log for 5 years for CMA audit purposes.
8. To meet **continuing competence** requirements, each registrant will need to answer the **peer case review** questions regarding attendance and type of review (midwifery vs interprofessional) in their CMA online registrant profile during CMA Annual Renewal.

9. Protect **client** identifiers to maintain **confidentiality**. Case details of the **peer case review** are not to be documented or recorded.

Session Framework:

1. Topic: Suggestions for case selection include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Cases that include morbidity or mortality outcomes for the **client(s)**
 - b. Identification of system issues
 - c. Significant **client/colleague** feedback

Examples: severe PPH, shoulder dystocia, postpartum infection, unexpected NICU admission, emergency cesarean section, emergency transfer from community birth to hospital, midwifery-led breech birth, communication issues, and poor outcomes after the client declined recommended clinical care.

2. Case Presentation and Summary: The presenting registrant should be able to directly refer to the **client** chart. A case presentation and summary can include: comprehensive history to date; relevant lab work, ultrasound findings and other tests; consultations and management; any significant developments over the course of pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period; client feedback if applicable, and evaluation of care provided.
3. Application Discussion: As a group, discuss the application of any/all of the following: *Midwives Profession Regulation, Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, Canadian Competencies for Midwives, Alberta Competencies for Midwives*, clinical practice guidelines (MORE OB, SOGC, AOM, etc), **evidence-informed** recommendations, *Guidance to the Profession* documents, other policies and applicable national and community standards.
4. Feedback and Learnings:
 - a. Constructive peer feedback is provided to the presenting registrant by session participants.
 - b. Case learnings are identified by the registrant or others involved in the case and used for **quality improvement**.
 - c. Registrants can use identified learnings for self-reflection for their annual CMA Renewal reporting.
5. Follow up:
 - a. Review recommendations or changes to clinical practice or systems.
 - b. Registrants can contact CMA for guidance, if required.

References:

[Alberta Health \(2000\) Alberta Health Information Act](#)

[Alberta Health \(2000\) Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)

[Alberta Health \(2019\) Personal Information Protection Act](#)

[Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council \(2022\) Canadian Competencies for Midwives](#)

[College of Midwives of Alberta \(CMA\). \(2021\) Alberta Competencies for Midwives](#)

[College of Midwives of Alberta \(CMA\). \(2019 \) Code of Ethics](#)

[College of Midwives of Alberta \(CMA\). Guidance to the Profession documents. CMA website](#)

[College of Midwives of Alberta \(CMA\). \(2022\) Standards of Practice](#)

[College of Midwives of Alberta \(CMA\). 2023 Standards of Practice - Continuing Competence](#)

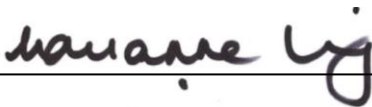
[Health Professions Restricted Activities Regulation – Midwives Section 34, 35, 36 \(April 22, 2023\)](#)

Related CMA Documents

Continuing Competence Program Policy – CMA website

Continuing Professional Development Activities Policy – CMA Website

Approved by the College of Midwives of Alberta Council



Chair – CMA Council

Date: June 15, 2023

Appendices:

Appendix A: Peer Case Review Log

Appendix A

PEER CASE REVIEW LOG

- As part of CMA’s Peer Case Review Policy, every General and Provisional registrant, needs to participate in and report at least four peer case reviews every registration year (November 1- October 31)
- Each midwifery-related review should have a minimum of three midwives and two midwifery practices in attendance.
- Client identifiers should be protected at all times. No detail of cases reviewed should be recorded in any format.
- Registrants will report peer case review attendance at CMA Annual Renewal.
- Copies of a peer case review log for each session will be provided by the host practice and will be stored at each participating practice for audit purposes. These must be kept for 5 years.
- If an interprofessional review is attended and an attendance sheet is not provided this log can be adapted for such use.

Host Midwifery Practice Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Peer Case Review Session # _____ (Need 4 sessions per year from Nov 1- Oct 31)

Date:
Number and names of midwives present:
Number and names of Midwifery Practices present:
Number of cases reviewed:
Confidentiality was discussed and agreed on Yes/No