
MRCNS PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE POLICY

ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS (APA)

Definitions

Standard Model:

The delivery of midwifery care, subject to the *Midwifery Act, Regulations, Bylaws, and Standards of Practice* of the Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia.

Alternative Practice Arrangement:

The delivery of midwifery care, subject to the *Midwives Regulations, Bylaws* for the Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia, and *Standards of Practice*, excluding Standards 6.1, which outlines comprehensive midwifery care throughout pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period.

Letter of Agreement:

A document that outlines terms, duration, renewal, reporting and quality assurance requirements of the approved Alternative Practice Arrangement, as well as any conditions to be imposed on the midwives' registration upon returning to the Standard Model.

Preamble

The Alternative Practice Arrangement (APA) process has been developed to support interprofessional care models and in response to requests from midwives for flexibility in the delivery of midwifery care. It is intended to support those midwives who have innovative proposals to contribute to the health care needs of their community, or who require flexible practice options to remain in the profession.

Policy

Midwives in good standing with MRCNS are eligible to apply for and practise in Alternative Practice Arrangements (APAs). APAs are established based on community and client need and in collaboration with providers, including but not limited to:

1. serving a population of clients with unique social and/or medical requirements.
2. sustainable practices amongst midwives and/or other perinatal care providers.
3. the provision of the full scope of practice of midwifery care to the public who may not normally benefit,

Midwives may apply for exemptions from Standard 6.1 (providing care during pregnancy, labour, birth and postpartum). Compliance with all other standards of *Standards of Practice* while working in an APA is mandatory.

Midwives entering APAs with other perinatal care providers must share MRCNS's Philosophy of Care, Midwifery Scope and Model of Practice with the other practitioners and discuss their practical implications for sharing care.

Midwives must inform their clients when they work within an APA.

Requirements and Approval Process

Application to establish Alternative Practice Arrangement is unique and will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Approval of one application does not constitute a precedent for approval of other applications.

In reviewing each application for approval, MRCNS staff will use a standardized evaluation rubric to determine whether the APA satisfactorily meets the following requirements:

- adheres to the Midwives Regulations and Bylaws for the MRCNS.
- offers high quality and safe midwifery care in the context of proposed exceptions to Standards of Practice.
- alignment with the Philosophy of Care.
- plans for a high level of client satisfaction.
- improves access to perinatal care.
- contributes to health promotion and disease prevention.
- includes a sustainable funding model.
- includes plans for self-evaluation and quality assurance; and
- presents a transparent communication strategy for the public with regards to deviations from the Standard Model.

The process of considering an application for project approval is iterative; MRCNS may request supplementary materials and/or escalate the application to Council for final consideration.

Once approved, each applicant registrant will sign an individual Alternative Practice Arrangement Letter of Agreement.

Approved by the MRCNS on September 15, 2022