

MIDWIFERY REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA (MRCNS)

POLICY FOR INTERPRETATION OF “POSTPARTUM”

The MRCNS developed a policy to interpret the definition of “postpartum”.

Introduction & Purpose

To address the ambiguity and inconsistencies arising from the current interpretations of the term “postpartum”.

Interpretation of the post-partum period allows for flexibility in providing evidence-based midwifery care.

Policy Statement

Interpretation of “post-partum period” as contained in Section 2(h)(i) (ii) of the *Midwifery Act*, shall be the period of time ranging up to 12 months following birth.

The Council interprets the word baby contained in Section 2(h)(i) (i) of the *Act* as: an infant, a child under the age of 1 year; more specifically, a newborn baby.

Scope and Competency

As primary care providers and regulated healthcare providers, midwives are responsible for determining the limits of their own competence. In all situations midwives must be competent in all aspects of care they are providing or they must consult with, or transfer the care of the client to, another care provider.

References

Taber's Medical Dictionary: A child in the first year of life. [L. infans, baby, infant, unspeaking]

Venes, Donald, editor. “Infant.” Taber's Medical Dictionary, 25th ed., F.A. Davis Company, 2025. Taber's Online, www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/761832/all/infant.

Approved by the MRCNS on November 18, 2025