

MIDWIFERY

# + What does a midwife do?

- A midwife is a registered health care professional who provides primary care to women during pregnancy, labour and birth, including conducting normal vaginal deliveries, and providing care to mothers and babies during the first 6 weeks postpartum.
- Midwifery care is founded on respect for pregnancy and birth as a normal, healthy process and a profound social, emotional and cultural event in a woman's life. Midwives provide safe, personalized, research-based care. They attend births in hospital or home according to the woman's choice and professional protocols and are on-call and available to their clients 24 hours a day during the course of care.

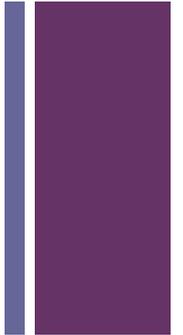


# + What can you expect?

- Midwives begin care in the first trimester of a woman's pregnancy and provide complete care to their client as the primary caregiver. Midwifery care includes visits with the client at the midwifery clinic, attendance at the labour and birth and post partum home visits. Throughout the client's care, a midwife or her practice back-up is available on a 24 hour basis. Midwives consult with physicians if necessary and may transfer care if required. A midwife may provide supportive care to her client if care is transferred.



# + Philosophy



- Midwifery care is based on a respect for pregnancy as a state of health and childbirth as a normal physiologic process and a profound event in a woman's life.
- Midwifery care respects the diversity of women's needs and the variety of personal and cultural meanings which women, families and communities bring to the pregnancy, birth, and early parenting experience.
- The maintenance and promotion of health throughout the childbearing cycle are central to midwifery care. Midwives focus on preventive care and the appropriate use of technology.
- Care is continuous, personalized and non-authoritarian. It responds to a woman's social, emotional and cultural as well as physical needs.
- Midwives respect the woman's right to choice of caregiver and place of birth in accordance with the Standards of Practice of the College of Midwives. Midwives are willing to attend birth in a variety of settings, including birth at home.

# + Philosophy cont'd

- Midwives encourage the woman to actively participate in her care throughout pregnancy, birth and postpartum period and make choices about the manner in which her care is provided.
- Midwifery care includes education and counselling, enabling a woman to make informed choices.
- Midwives promote decision-making as a shared responsibility, between the woman, her family (as defined by the woman) and her caregivers. The mother is recognized as the primary decision maker.
- Midwives regard the interests of the woman and the fetus as compatible. They focus their care on the mother to obtain the best outcomes for the woman and her newborn.
- Fundamental to midwifery care is the understanding that a woman's caregivers respect and support her so that she may give birth safely, with power and dignity.



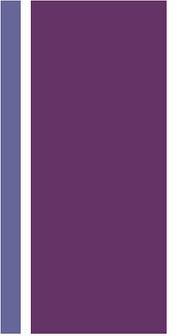
# + Tenets of Midwifery



- In Ontario, the practice of midwifery is based on the principles of:
  - \* Continuity of care with a small group of midwives
  - \* Informed choice for decision-making
  - \* Choice of birthplace (including home, hospital).

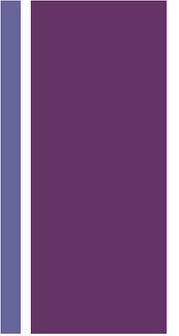
# + How do I find a midwife?

- <http://www.cmo.on.ca/search.php>
- [http://www.aommembersonly.ca/find\\_a\\_midwife/Search.aspx](http://www.aommembersonly.ca/find_a_midwife/Search.aspx)
- <http://www.ontariomidwives.ca/>
- As soon as you know you are pregnant, find a midwife near you.
- Contact the office directly and do an intake



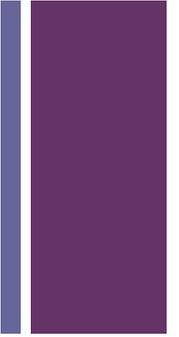
# + Do I need to pay?

- Ontario midwives are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care so services are free to clients.



# + A short video...

- <http://www.ontariomidwives.ca/care/pregnancy>



+ Thank you! Questions?

