

Policy Name	Informed Choice Policy		Number	P18
Date Approved by Council June 16, 2016	Effective Date: Sept. 14, 2016	Revised by Council		
<p>Informed choice is a fundamental standard of practice for midwives in Alberta. The childbearing client is recognized as the primary decision-maker. The interactive process of informed choice involves the promotion of shared responsibility between the midwife and the client. It is the responsibility of the midwife to facilitate the ongoing exchange of current knowledge in a non-authoritarian and cooperative manner, including sharing what is known and unknown about procedures, tests and medications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The midwife shall uphold the client’s right to make informed choices and the client’s right to provide consent about all aspects of their care throughout the childbearing experience. 2) The midwife shall respect, support and advocate for the client’s choices. 3) Midwives actively encourage informed decision-making by providing women with complete, relevant, and objective information in a non- authoritarian manner. <p>The College of Midwives of Alberta requires that Registered Midwives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide each client with the opportunity for discussion and • document according to the Documentation and Recordkeeping policy (P07). <p>At the onset of care the College of Midwives of Alberta requires that the Registered Midwives provide each client with the following information;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and experience in midwifery care of the midwives in the practice; • Services provided, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope of practice ○ Philosophy of care ○ Choice of birth setting 				

- Contact information, including how the woman can reach a midwife known to her 24 hours a day, change of appointment procedure, off-call coverage arrangements, back-up arrangements;
- Second attendant arrangements;
- Standards of practice and protocols, including:
 - Continuity of care
 - Consultation and transfer of care
 - Supportive care
- Role and responsibilities of the client;
- Confidentiality and access to records;
- Any student and/or supervised practice arrangements.

Throughout the course of care the **College of Midwives of Alberta** requires registered midwives to provide each client with the following information:

- Potential benefits and risks of, and alternatives to, procedures, tests and medications;
- Relevant research evidence;
- Community standards and practices
- Opportunities to discuss information.

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College of Midwives of Alberta