

I do not view expanding the scope of midwifery as an elective option. I firmly believe that it is essential to ensure the timely delivery and appropriate management of care. It is unfair to women that they be placed in situations where a midwife is performing a diagnostic test, recommending a treatment - but then unable to prescribe that treatment. For example, just today I referred a woman to her GP for antibiotics for an asymptomatic bacteriuria with GBS. This GP (who does not do Obstetrics) then informs me that she will not provide the requested treatment because the "patient is not symptomatic and therefore does not require treatment". I kindly informed the GP that leaving this woman untreated significantly increases her risk for various complications...the response I get is please provide me with the current literature. Now I'm left conducting a lit review and engaging in debates with this GP. I am beyond frustrated. It is unconscionable that midwives are left in this position. I know this woman needs treatment, the literature supports it, I shouldn't have to waste my time doctor shopping to find someone who agrees with me!