

Annie Scheifer, Project Manager
Health Professionals Regulatory Advisory Council
55 St. Clair Avenue West
Suite 806, Box 18
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y7

August 15, 2008

Re: College of Midwives of Ontario submission regarding The Midwifery Scope of Practice

Dear Ms. Schiefer,

The Midwives Clinic of East York Don Mills (TMC) would like to take the opportunity to explain how we have been able to maintain and when necessary increase our privileges at our community hospital. At our hospital we have been fortunate to enjoy a collaborative, supportive and respectful atmosphere. Our privileges were based on the fact that there are two midwives who attend a hospital birth thus allowing the nursing staff to take care of the labouring woman of obstetricians and family doctors.

After a normal birth the clients of TMC usually go home within three to four hours. This helps ensure that there are beds available for upcoming labouring women and nurses to take care of them.

Though we understand the need in other communities for second attendants and the possible advantages of working with nurses instead of a second midwife, for TMC, we prefer to have two midwives at the births we attend both in hospital and at home. We are assuming that two midwives at a birth will remain an option and not mean that we will have to change when other options become what are considered the norm.

In light of increasing the midwives' caseload, we would suggest we be cautious of diluting the care we now provide for our clients. As well, midwives may find it contributes to a decrease in job satisfaction and may lead to burnout, nonetheless, but for different reasons.

Sincerely,

The Midwives Clinic of East York Don Mills

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