

**NOVA SCOTIA
NURSING AND
MIDWIFERY
REGULATOR**

Registered Midwives Practice Support Tools

Introduction

Regardless of the practice setting or scope of employment, registered midwives (RMs) are responsible for assessing the limits **of their own competencies**. Registered midwives must:

1. have the necessary knowledge, skill and judgment to provide competent and safe care to clients.
2. collaborate or consult with another provider capable of providing guidance or direction or transfer the care in situations where client needs exceed their individual competence.
3. complete education (i.e., post-graduate or employer led) to address gaps in knowledge, skill or judgment before engaging in practice.
4. follow employer protocols, policies and procedures recognizing the scope of employment may be smaller than the professional scope of the profession.

Scope of practice of midwifery under the RHPA [Nursing and Midwifery profession specific regulations](#)

- 9 (1) The scope of practice of midwifery is the application of specialized and evidence-based midwifery knowledge, skills and judgment that have been taught in an approved education program or are set out in 1 or more of the following approved by the Board:
- a) competency frameworks;
 - b) standards of practice;
 - c) practice guidelines,
- (2) The scope of practice of midwifery as described in subsection (1) includes the performance of any or all of the following activities:
- a) prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care of clients;
 - b) assessing, diagnosing, treating and managing health conditions and diseases related to sexual and reproductive health;
 - c) health promotion and disease prevention activities related to the activities described in clauses (a) and (b);
 - d) performing any other services, roles, functions and activities included in the scope of practice of the designations and licensing categories set out in the bylaws.

Decision Support Tool

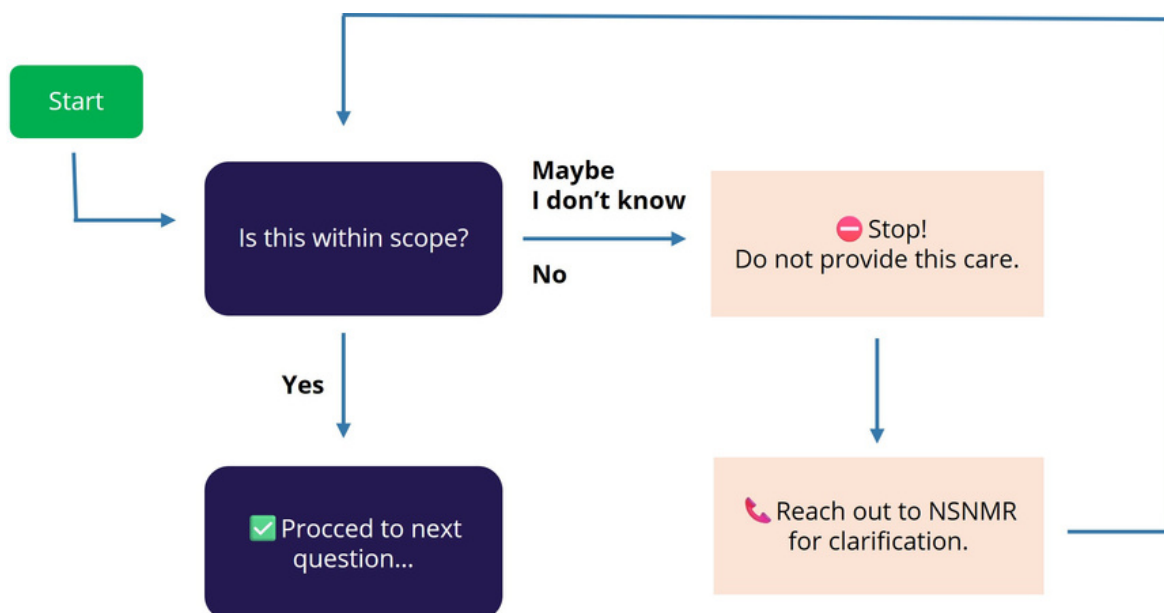
(3) The scope of practice of midwifery also includes health promotion, research, education, inter-professional collaboration, consultation, management, administration, advocacy, regulation or system development that is related to the activities and application of specialized and evidence-based *midwifery knowledge, skills and judgment described in subsections (1) and (2).*

Considerations

It is important to note the regulations under RHPA enable optimization of midwifery practice. However, midwives must have the necessary competence, and employers must have the necessary policies in place to support optimized practice in the clinical settings, both of which many take some time to implement during the transition.

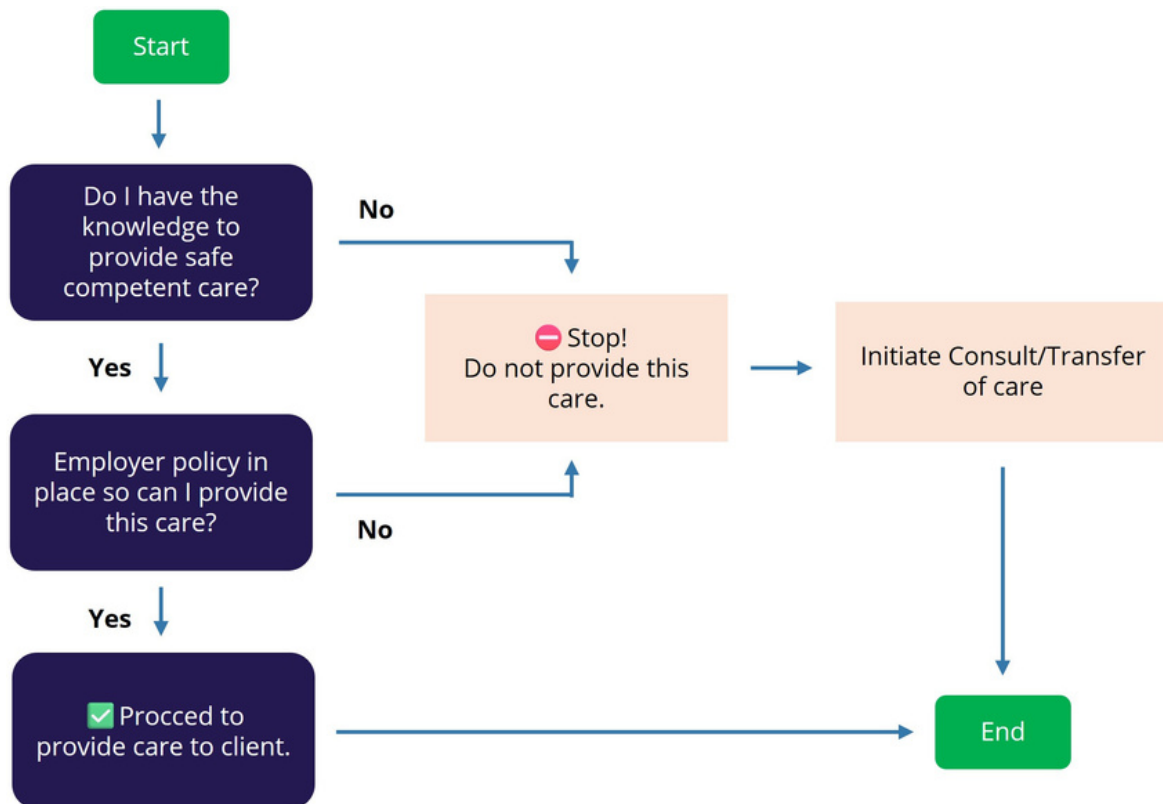
Midwives can use this tool to help them make decisions about providing care to client.

When asked to provide care, ask yourself:



Decision Support Tool

If the care request is within the midwifery scope of practice, ask yourself:



Consulting Others or Transferring Care

As primary care providers and regulated healthcare professionals, midwives are responsible for determining the limits of their own competence. Midwives **must** consult with another care provider or transfer the care of the client, when the needs of the client exceed their individual competence.

In cases where the care of the client has been transferred, midwives may, in collaboration with the most responsible provider, continue to provide midwifery services to the client.