

Section: **Professional Practice**

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Subject: **Client Request for Care Out of Scope**

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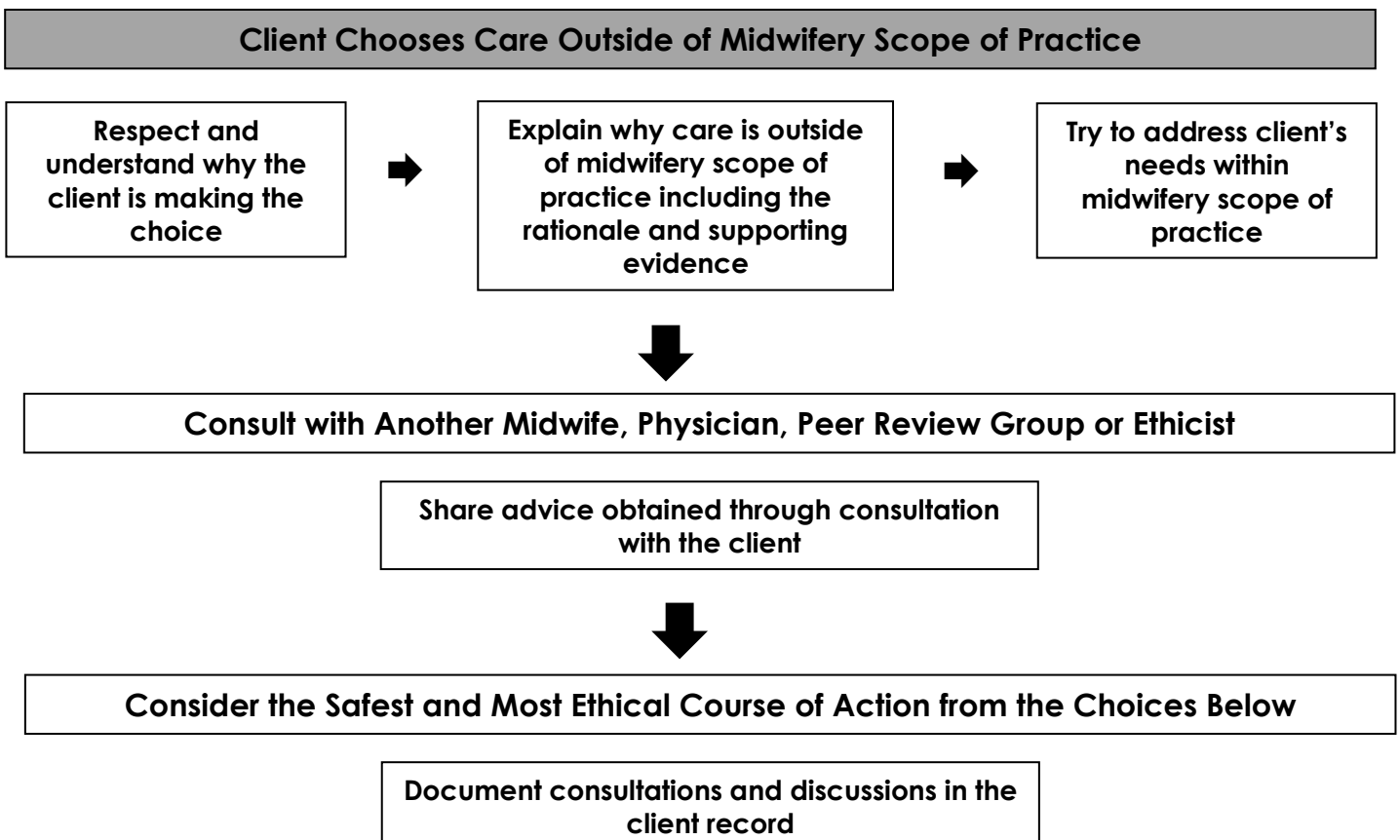
INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to set out the requirements to be followed by midwives to support a client's decision to choose care outside of midwifery scope of practice after an Informed Choice Discussion has occurred.

Ethical principles underlying health care emphasize the rights of individuals to choose among alternative approaches, weighing risks and benefits according to their needs and values. Midwives are responsible for being clear about their scope of practice and limitations, giving recommendations for care if appropriate and for informing clients about risks, benefits and alternative approaches.

GUIDELINE

When a midwife, or team of midwives, advises a client that a certain course of action must be followed to comply with midwifery scope of practice, or with the midwife's judgment of safe care, and the client refuses to follow that advice, **the following steps shall be followed in non-emergency situations and when it is reasonable to expect there is time to find a solution:**



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Continue Providing Care

1. Continue making recommendations for safe care

2. Inform colleagues who may become involved in care

3. Document all discussions and decisions

Discontinue Care

1. Clearly communicate to the client that care is discontinued

2. Send letter via registered mail confirming termination of care

3. Maintain a copy of the letter and proof of client receipt in the client record

4. Facilitate transfer of client care to an alternate caregiver

In the course of labour or urgent situations, the midwife may not refuse to attend the client unless the previous steps to discontinue care and facilitate transfer of care were completed prior to the onset of labour.

Client Declines Consultation, Transfer of Care or Emergency Transport

In Hospital

1. Remain in attendance

2. Provide care within midwifery scope of practice

3. Access appropriate resources and consult with appropriate care provider(s) (i.e. OBS, NICU)

4. Provide clinical care to the best of your ability

5. Document all discussions and decisions

Continuing Care for a Client Requesting Out of Hospital Birth Outside of Midwifery Scope of Practice



Review with the client the agreed upon place of birth and document the reasons for hospital birth. Review with the client that no labour assessment will occur out of hospital and that you will only meet the client at the hospital.

Out of Hospital Birth Situation Where Client Refuses Consult and/or Move to Hospital and Declines Emergency Transport

- 1. Call EMS and other appropriate resources.**
- 2. The midwife must remain in attendance and be prepared to manage an urgent situation and continue to provide the best care possible to the client as required under the Code of Ethics and within the scope of midwifery practice**

In Circumstances Where the Agreed Upon Place of Birth is in Hospital

- 1. Confirming that out of hospital birth is outside of the scope of midwifery practice or against the midwife's professional judgement and the midwife and client has agreed to the outlined plan of care which includes a hospital birth, the midwife is not obliged to attend a client out of hospital**
- 2. If the client refuses to attend at hospital, the midwife should advise the client to call 911 for transport to the hospital from client's current location.**

FLOWCHART

