



Midwifery Council of New Brunswick

**Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes
du Nouveau-Brunswick**

Guidelines: Role and Duty of Second Attendants

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction to midwives who use second attendants who are not midwives.

The second attendant is to be present for the second stage of labour, birth and the immediate postpartum period. They may also be present in first stage at the discretion of the midwife.

A second birth attendant will be knowledgeable and competent in following:

1. Basic knowledge of labour and birth,
2. Assessment of maternal vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respirations),
3. Postpartum assessment of uterine tone and position, bladder, and blood loss,
4. Assessment of newborn vital signs,
5. Body substance precautions,
6. Assisting with sterile and clean procedures,
7. Basic knowledge of instruments, supplies and drugs used by midwives,
8. Providing appropriate assistance in the management of neonatal and obstetric emergencies,
9. Basic knowledge of observation, assessment and care of the newborn, and
10. Appropriate record keeping.

Under the direction of the midwife the second attendant may be requested to:

Late First stage or Second stage of Labour:

Provide assistance to the midwife

Provide support to the client

Check layout of supplies to ensure accessibility of equipment, instruments, and drugs

Auscultate, record and report fetal heart rate to the midwife

Document in the health record at the direction of the midwife

Birth

Provide assistance to the midwife

Provide support to the client

Ensure warmth and safety of the newborn

Check, report and record the condition of the newborn to the midwife

Assess Apgar scores and report them to the midwife

Administer medications as directed by the midwife

Document in the health record at the direction of the midwife



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Postpartum

- Provide assistance to the midwife
- Provide support and assistance to the client
- Administer medications as directed by the midwife
- Assist the midwife during suturing, if required
- Checks maternal vital signs, fundus, lochia and bladder
- Help clean up after the birth
- Document in the health record at the direction of the midwife

Emergencies

- Phone Emergency Medical Services (911)
- Assist the midwife with NRP
- Assist the midwife with setting up IV fluid/drug therapy
- Check maternal, fetal or newborn vital signs and report them to the midwife
- Assist the midwife with CPR
- Assist the midwife in the management of other emergency situations
- Assist in preparation for transport
- Provide support and assistance to the client and family
- Document in the health record at the direction of the midwife

The second birth attendant's role in emergencies, (such as; precipitate delivery, haemorrhage, shoulder dystocia, and infant resuscitation), should be clearly established prior to attendance at births. It is recommended that that roles and duties, procedures and skills are reviewed routinely by the midwife and the second attendant. It is strongly recommended that a written agreement outlining these roles and responsibilities is provided and maintained by each midwife or a group of midwives working with that second attendant.