

## **INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS ABOUT STUDENTS**

### **Thanks for including a midwifery student or interprofessional student in your care!**

Clients are important teachers to midwifery and interprofessional students. Inviting a student to be part of your team will enhance your experience and your care while enhancing the skills of the learner.

### **Interprofessional students**

In addition to midwifery students, our practice occasionally has medical, nursing or other health and social service students learning from our midwives. Please also welcome them - it is so valuable to improve interprofessional understanding about the role of midwives.

### **About the McMaster Midwifery Education Program**

The [McMaster Midwifery Education Program](#) began in 1993 as part of a consortium with [Laurentian](#) and [Ryerson Universities](#).

The program is a four-year undergraduate degree program in which graduates receive a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Midwifery (BHSc).

Graduates register with the College of Midwives of Ontario to practice in Ontario.

### **Introduction to Midwifery: Year 1**

Midwifery clients may meet with students who are in their first year of the program. Students benefit from a variety of experiences, such as meeting clients at clinic appointments and coming to births in an observer or supporter role.

### **Midwifery Placement: Year 2**

In this four-month placement, the student learns how to provide care during and after pregnancy, labour, and birth. The midwife teacher is always with the student or close at hand. The student learns how to perform clinical skills and provide information. The midwife teacher shows the student how to provide support and monitoring during labour and how to catch a baby. By the end of the term, the student can do most normal care with little supervision.

### **Midwifery Placement: Year 3**

Third year students spend two terms in a variety of interprofessional and community placements, including with an obstetrician, labour floor nurse, and lactation consultant. This year can include one month at a midwifery practice and placements in rural, remote or international settings.

### **Midwifery Placement: Year 4**

In the first term of the final year, the student acts more and more as the midwife, but the midwife teacher is always nearby. As the year progresses, students can do most client and baby care independently but with the midwife teacher closely available during labour or available by phone for postpartum visits.

In the last term, called Clerkship, the student can give all of the care for the client and newborn from the beginning of the pregnancy through labour and birth. The student will be the midwife, but the midwife teacher is always nearby during labour or available by phone for postnatal care.

## **FAQ**

### **What are the benefits of having a student?**

The student will give clients labour support, information and extra time.

The student will be an extra pair of helping hands so that there is more time to spend with you.

### **Will my midwife still care for me?**

A midwife teacher will always be present or nearby when you are with the student.

### **Will the student be at all of my visits?**

The student will be at as many of your visits as possible so you can get to know each other.

### **Will the student be at my birth? What will the student be doing?**

The student will usually be at your birth. They may be helping to take care of you, or may catch your baby. The midwife teacher will show the student how to care for you and your baby.

### **What if the student doesn't know how to do something?**

The student will say they don't know and will ask the midwife teacher for help.

### **Do I have to have a student?**

Your midwife will suggest that you meet the student and see how you feel about having a student involved. If or how the student is involved is always your choice.

### **I'm happy to have a student. What can I do to help?**

Tell the student what you like and don't like about their care. You are helping the student to learn.

### **What clients say about the experience of including a student?**

"I think it is wonderful that students are given hands on opportunities with experienced midwives"

"We were very comfortable having the student be our primary care giver. We felt the student had enough knowledge to serve us"

"Our student was exceptional and contributed greatly to the whole birthing experience. We were grateful for the help."

"The student was amazing. I hope the same student can be just as involved in my next pregnancy, maybe as my midwife!"

**Thank you for helping the next generation of midwives.**